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VOLUME 1

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THE

Biographical MAGAZINE;

CONTAINING

PORTRAITS

OF

EMINENT AND INGENIOUS PERSONS

OF

EVERY AGE AND NATION,

WITH

THEIR LIVES AND CHARACTERS.

"THE PROPER STUDY OF MANKIND IS—MAN."

VOLUME I.

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SHAKSPEARE.

If, among all the numerous biographers of Shakspeare, not one has actually elicited any decisively consistent account of his life; but, baffled by the paucity of positive facts, genius, learning, and indefatigable labour, have failed to afford a satisfactory biographical picture of our immortal bard, after the most luminous and voluminous researches and investigations; too much must not be expected from any humble effort to produce, rather a pleasing but faithful miniature, than a grand and commanding full-sized portrait.

This transcendent poet of nature, the glory of the British nation, appears to have been the eldest son of Mr. John Shakspeare, who had a family of, at least, eleven children; and is generally described as a considerable dealer in the wool trade, at Stratford-upon-Avon, where our unrivalled bard was indisputably born. But neither the father's business, by some degraded to that of a butcher, nor the day of his son's birth, sometimes stated as the 16th, and at others the 13th of April, can be positively ascertained; he was, however, baptized on the 26th of April 1564.

After a very slight education at the grammar-school of the town, he is said to have applied himself to his father's business; and married, in his seventeenth year, Anne Hathaway, daughter of a yeoman, at the adjacent village of Shottery.

The circumstance which brought Shakspeare to London is to be regretted, however we may rejoice at the consequence; being nothing less than that of having indiscreetly joined some other thoughtless young men in purloining deer from the adjacent park of Sir Thomas Lucy, who menaced a prosecution.

Whether distress, or the natural bent of his mind, first led him to one of the numerous little theatres then abounding in the metropolis and its environs, is by no means ascertainable: but nothing can be more certain, than that, after some time, he was engaged to perform subordinate characters; probably, in his own first dramatic efforts.

As an actor, there seems good reason to believe, that he never reached higher than the character of the Ghost, in his tragedy of Hamlet: as a dramatic writer, he soon excelled all that went before him; and, we believe, there are few persons acquainted with his productions who expect ever to see him equalled.

His native goodness of heart, and cheerful and agreeable manners, were scarcely surpassed even by his exalted genius.

Having written at least thirty-six plays; been for a considerable time joint proprietor of the Globe Theatre, Bankside, Southwark; and acquired, by his splendid talents and assiduity, sufficient property to satisfy his very moderate views; he purchased a genteel residence at his native place, and prudently retired from the care and fatigue of business, to pass the remainder of his days with ease and tranquility, in the rational enjoyment of a rural life.

He died the 23d of April 1616: thus exactly completing his fifty-second year, according to some; and, as supposed by others, an additional week. It is remarkable, that Cervantes, the inimitable author of Don Quixote, died in Spain on the same day.

Shakspeare was interred among his ancestors, in the great church of Stratford-upon-Avon.

His widow survived him seven years; and he left two daughters, who were both married; but his immediate family is said to have become extinct in the third generation after his decease. His literary progeny, however, the incorruptible offspring of his immortal mind, will be dear to every grateful and susceptible bosom, till time itself shall be no more.

HANDEL.

GEORGE FREDERIC HANDEL, unquestionably the greatest master of music the world has ever known, was born at Halle, in Upper Saxony, on the 24th of February 1684. Scarcely could he speak, before he articulated musical sounds; and his father, a physician, then upwards of sixty, having destined him for the law, grieved at the child's propensity to music, banished from his house all musical instruments. But the immortal spark of genius, which Heaven had kindled in the infant's bosom, was not to be extinguished by the caprice of a mistaken parent. The child contrived to get a little clavichord into a garret; where, applying himself after the family retired to rest, he soon found means to produce both melody and harmony.

Before he was seven, the Duke of Saxe Weisenfels, accidentally discovering his genius, prevailed on the father to cherish his inclination. He was, accordingly, placed with Zackau, organist of Halle cathedral; and, for three years, from the age of nine, composed a new church service every week.

In 1698, he went to Berlin; but, losing his father, he thought that he could best support his mother, by repairing to Hamburgh, where he soon attracted universal notice. Yet this fascinating musician was a stripling of fourteen! At that premature age, he composed Almeria, his first opera, which had a run of thirty successive nights.

After a residence of about four years at Hamburgh, he travelled six in Italy; giving numerous new displays of his prodigious ability, at Florence, Venice, Rome, Naples, &c.

Unable to remain settled, till he could visit every musical court, almost immediately on his return home he went to Hanover; and the Elector, afterwards our George I. granted him a liberal pension, with allowance of absence for twelve months or more, that he might go wherever he pleased.

In 1710, he came to London; where his opera of Rinaldo was admired like his preceding wonders, and the necessity of his departure became a subject of general concern.

In 1712, he again received permission to visit England, on condition that he should return within a reasonable time. But, after his arrival, captivated with the favour and fortune which overwhelmed him, pensioned by her majesty, and patronized by all the nobility, he forgot his return: and when, on the death of Queen Anne, in 1714, the Elector succeeded to the throne, Handel was afraid to appear at court; till an ingenious stratagem, giving rise to his celebrated Water Music, with which it was contrived that he should at once delight and astonish his majesty, effectually restored him to favour.

Queen Anne's pension of 200*l.* was now doubled by George I. and the nobility having formed a Royal Academy of Music, under his direction, it flourished about ten years; when a quarrel between him and Senesino dissolved the institution, and brought on a contest, which ruined his fortune and his health.

Restored by the baths of Aix la Chapelle, he determined to choose sacred subjects for the future exercise of his genius. This resolution produced those noble compositions, his truly divine Oratorios, performed at Covent Garden till within a week of his death, April 13, 1759.

He was buried in Westminster Abbey, with suitable pomp; where his genius has been since commemorated with little less than divine honours.

There is, in Handel's instrumental compositions, a vigour, a spirit, a variety, a learning, and invention, superior to every other composer that can be named; and, in his choruses, a grandeur and sublimity never equalled.

DR. JOHNSON.

THIS great dictator in the republic of letters, who raised himself, by the mere strength of his abilities, to the first seat of literary eminence, and continued, during life, to preserve the merited situation, with little envy, and with less opposition, was born on the 7th of September 1709, at Lichfield; where his father was a bookseller and stationer.

He was a prodigy of early understanding; and, while at Lichfield school, preferred books and conversation to the usual puerile amusements.

About the age of fifteen, having paid a long visit to a relation, his schoolmaster refused to receive him again on the foundation; and he went, for some time, to the school of Stourbridge, in Worcestershire. After remaining about two years at home, he was, in October 1728, entered a commoner of Pembroke college, Oxford, and soon highly distinguished himself. He was, however, prevented from remaining long enough for a degree, by the circumstances of his father; who died in 1731, a few months after his return from the university.

In 1732, he was constrained to seek his bread, as an usher at the school of Market Bosworth, in Leicestershire; where he led a most miserable life; till Mr. Hector, an old schoolfellow, kindly invited him to Birmingham. With this gentleman, who was an eminent surgeon, he resided while he translated Father Lobo's Voyage to Abyssinia.

In 1734, he returned to Lichfield; and, the year following, married Mrs. Porter, a mercer's widow, of Birmingham, twenty years older than himself. She had a fortune of eight hundred pounds, and he now opened a boarding academy, at Edial, near Lichfield; where, in a year and a half, he obtained only three pupils, one of whom was Garrick. He, therefore, discontinued his school; and, having written the tragedy of Irene, determined on trying his fortune in London. In this resolution he was joined by his celebrated pupil, who intended to study the law; and, in March 1739, these two extraordinary characters entered the metropolis together. Johnson soon became acquainted with Mr. Cave, the original printer of the Gentleman's Magazine; and, by his recommendation, with several booksellers and literary characters. After having combated innumerable difficulties, the admirable Life of his old companion, Savage, made its appearance, and his fame began rapidly to increase. In 1746, he was engaged to compile his celebrated English Dictionary, which was not completed till May 1755. Mr. Garrick, in the mean time, brought out Irene, in 1749, which was by no means successful. His inestimable Rambler commenced in 1750; in 1753, he lost his wife; in 1758, began the Idler, and wrote Rasselas in a few days, that he might be enabled to visit his dying mother; and, in 1762, the king, to reward his extraordinary merits, granted him a pension of 300*l.* a year.

In 1765, he published his Shakspeare; but, from that period, till the publication of his Lives of the Poets, in 1778, he had so much indisposition, and his company was so greatly engrossed by Mr. Thrale and his literary lady, that he wrote little else than his few political pamphlets.

He died on the 13th of December 1784, in the 75th year of his age; and was buried in Westminster Abbey, close to the grave of his friend Garrick. A noble monument has since been erected to his memory, in St. Paul's cathedral.

To say, that Dr. Samuel Johnson, who thus excelled in the art of accumulating human wisdom, and in the talent of widely diffusing it to others, had infirmities, and even imperfections; is only to say, that he was a man: but few men have been freer from frailties, and still fewer from vice.

SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS.

THIS accomplished master, who may be said to have laid the foundation of a British School of Painting, calculated to embrace the excellences of every other, was born at Plympton, near Plymouth, in the county of Devon, July 16, 1723; where his father was a clergyman, distinguished for learning and variety of knowledge.

Sir Joshua, from his infancy, was fond of drawing; but did not determine to make painting his profession, till he met with Richardson's Theory. This work conveying to his mind that genial influence so necessary to awaken the dormant seeds of inspiration, he was sent to London, and placed under Mr. Hudson; whom he quitted in 1743, and went back to Devonshire.

In 1746, he painted a portrait of Captain Hamilton, father of the present Marquis of Abercorn, which first brought him into public notice; and by the friendship of Captain Keppel, afterwards Admiral Lord Keppel, he had an opportunity of visiting Italy. In this splendid seat of the arts, he stored his mind with those classical ideas of sublimity and elegance, which we behold in the productions of his pencil, which we read in those of his pen. The sketch which he has written of his feelings, on first contemplating the works of Raphaël, in the Vatican, at Rome, so honourable to his taste, his diffidence, and his candour, affords an admirable lesson for artists; and, indeed, for all persons of genius or talents.

On his return to England, the whole length of his patron, engraved by Fisher, attracted general notice: and having painted several fashionable beauties, the polite world flocked to see them, and he soon became the most popular painter, not only in England, but in Europe. The felicitous force of his resemblances, and that combined dignity and grace which characterize all his works, not only drew around him the chief opulence and beauty of the nation; but he was happily solicited to perpetuate the features of almost every eminent and distinguished character then living, with the greater part of whom, so attractive were his manners as well as his talents, he preserved an intimacy, which only ended with life. In this assemblage of genius, each was improved by each.

Sir Joshua received, from his majesty, the honour of knighthood, on being elected president of the Royal Academy; which he opened with the first of his exquisite discourses, January 2, 1769.

Besides the three well known Letters, for his friend Dr. Johnson's Idler; Mr. Mason's elegant Translation of Du Fresnoy's Art of Painting, is enriched with Sir Joshua's valuable Annotatious. An account of his tour through Holland and the Netherlands, in 1784, for the purpose of critically examining the works of the celebrated masters of the Dutch and Flemish schools, concluding with a masterly character of Rubens, the whole written by himself, has been posthumously published.

To enumerate his portraits, is not possible; his historical pictures, of which we cannot but regret there are so few, amount to about sixty. He was accustomed to say, that historical efforts "cost him too much."

Sir Joshua Reynolds, who was never married, died on the 25th of February 1792, in the sixty-ninth year of his age. His friends had for some time conceived, that he was low spirited without cause; but, on his being opened, a preternatural enlargement of the liver, to more than double the usual size, sufficiently accounted for his depression and his death. After lying in state at the Royal Academy, his remains were deposited, with great funeral pomp, beneath the centre of St. Paul's dome.

Holl. sculp.

FREDERIC THE GREAT,

KING OF PRUSSIA.

For genius, for enterprise, and for heroism, no monarch of modern times may be put in competition with the late Charles Frederic, commonly stiled Frederic II. third King of Prussia; who filled the throne for nearly half a century, and gave his country a weight in the scale of empires, which at once awed and astonished Europe.

This magnanimous prince, the eldest son of Frederic William, by Sophia Dorothea, daughter of George I. King of England, was born on the 24th of January 1712. His early years were embittered by the tyranny of his father, who was equally avaricious and austere. At the age of twenty-one, he was married, against his will, to a princess with whom he never could be induced to live, though he always treated her with respect.

His knowledge in every branch of science was inconceivable; he wrote exquisite verses, composed several beautiful pieces of music, and was one of the finest performers on the German flute in the whole world. To which may be added that, besides his proficiency in the dead languages, he spoke most of the modern ones with fluency and grace.

On the death of his father, in 1740, he resolved to govern with little ministerial assistance. He tolerated all religions; and continued that correspondence with learned men, which he commenced when a prince.

In the milder pursuits of polite literature, however, he had not neglected to study the necessary operations of war; and the magnanimity with which he carried his theory into effect, during the long and frequent conflicts in which he was engaged, is known to all the world. Few have fought so many battles with such general success, fewer still been so little depressed by occasional defeat. He rose superior to all misfortunes, and his alliance was courted by every power in Europe.

His life was one continued scene of activity. Artists and ingenious men of every nation were invited into his dominions; he erected innumerable public edifices; formed a variety of national establishments; and made upwards of three hundred towns and villages arise as by enchantment, on marshes, waste lands, and desarts. In short, he amended defective laws, made commercial regulations, and civilized and polished the rudeness and barbarism of his subjects.

This illustrious monarch possessed almost every characteristic of greatness. He was, at once, a hero, a philosopher, an historian, a legislator, a poet, a musician, and a wit. In either of these endowments, he had sufficient ability to have formed singly a distinguished character.

Frederic the Great, as he was often deservedly called, died of a lethargy, on the 17th of August 1786.

The King of Prussia's writings are so extensive, that they fill, including his epistolary correspondence with Fontenelle, Rollin, Voltaire, D'Alembert, Condorcet, &c. no less than nineteen volumes in octavo; and so various, that they embrace almost every branch of polite literature. With respect to his Military Memoirs, however, it has been shrewdly remarked, that he appears more impartial in his acccounts of his campaigns, than in assigning the motives for his wars, or estimating the merits of his antagonists.

History must decide, on a profound consideration of all circumstances, how far the aggrandizement of his own country, by the seizure of Silesia, &c. and his share in the partition of Poland, may be regarded as affecting the true dignity of his monarchial character.

THE EARL OF CHATHAM.

THIS exalted statesman, William the second son of Robert Pitt, Esq. of Boconnock, in Cornwall, by a sister of the Earl of Grandison, was born November 15, 1708.

At the age of twenty-one, he went into the army, where he for some time served as a cornet; but, obtaining a seat in parliament, he displayed such powers of oratory, and such knowledge of the policy, jurisprudence, and commercial interests of his country, as at once excited astonishment, respect, and veneration. The Duchess-dowager of Marlborough, in 1745, rewarded his patriotism with a legacy of 10,000*l.*

In the administration which succeeded Walpole, he was first made joint vice-treasurer of Ireland; and afterwards, both in 1746, treasurer and paymaster-general of the army, and a member of the privy council.

In 1755, he resigned; and though, the latter end of the following year, he was made secretary of state, he was soon removed. So strongly, however, was the general opinion of him expressed, that he was again appointed secretary of state, June 29, 1757.

He no sooner took the lead, than every nerve was braced, and the British arm extended in complete vigour. Louisburg fell, under Boscawen and Amhurst; Saunders and the immortal Wolfe triumphed at Quebec; Senegal and Goree were annexed to the British crown; all the French East India possessions reduced; their armies every where defeated; Belleisle taken; and, the navy of England riding triumphant on the seas, the fleets of France were compelled to lie inactive, their coasts were ravaged, their commerce was annihilated, and their national resources were exhausted.

Finding his vigorous measures were not, as he conceived, duly supported by the cabinet, on the 5th of October 1761, he resigned. The 30th of July 1766, he was created a peer, and accepted the privy seal; but he resigned the office, November 2, 1768, and never after accepted any public employment. Indeed, the gout now grew so violent, that he was often carried to his seat in parliament covered with flannels; and still struggled for the welfare of his country, though obliged to be supported by crutches, while he delivered the firm sentiments of his vigorous mind. On the Duke of Richmond's moving, to withdraw our troops from America, April 8, 1778; the Earl, with enthusiastic energy, opposed the motion. He declared, "he was exceedingly ill; but, as long as he could crawl down "to that house, and had strength to raise himself on his crutches, or to lift his hand, "he would vote against giving up the dependency of America on the sovereignty of "Great Britain; and if no other lord was of opinion with him, he would singly protest "against the measure." These may be considered as the dying words of this immortal patriot, who well knew what was for the true interests of both countries.

The duke having replied, his lordship attempted again to get on his legs; but he was immediately seized with convulsions; and, being carried to his house, languished till the 7th of May, and then died. Parliament immediately voted a public funeral, and a monument in Westminster Abbey, at the expense of the nation; which, as the inscription records, had been exalted by Divine Providence, during his administration, to a height of prosperity and glory unknown in any former age.

This firm and decided statesman affords the rare instance of a British premier equally the friend of, and equally beloved by, the three component parts of the constitution; yet idolized by the people, and dreaded only by his country's foes. Never was there a minister better suited to the genius of Englishmen: prompt and daring in the enterprize; bold and rapid in the execution. With such a man at the helm, Britons are invincible!

LORD NELSON.

THE great and immortal Nelson, who may be considered as, perhaps, the most brilliant star in the grand constellation of British naval heroes, was the fourth son of the Reverend Edmund Nelson, of Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk; where, on Michaelmas-day 1758, this incomparable commander was born. At the age of twelve, on the rumour of a Spanish war, having seen, in a newspaper, that his maternal uncle, Captain Suckling, was appointed to the Raisonable of 64 guns, he entreated to serve under him. Accordingly, this was the first ship he entered; but, as the expected hostilities did not take place, he was judiciously sent a voyage to the West-Indies. On his return, July 1772, he was received by his uncle, on board the Triumph guard-ship, at Chatham: and, in June 1773, taken by Captain Lutwidge, in the Carcass, on the famous expedition to the north pole; where he demonstrated such uncommon naval skill, fortitude, resolution, and perseverance, as exeited general admiration. He next went, as a midshipman, in the Sea-Horse, to the East Indies; where he lost the use of his limbs, for some time, by the influence of the climate.

In 1777, he was made lieutenant of the Lowestoffe; in 1778, post-captain of the Hinchinbroke; and, in 1781, the Albemarle, of 28 guns, which he commanded till the peace of 1783: having distinguished himself as one of the very ablest, bravest, and most active commanders, ever known. In 1784, he went, in the Boreas of 28 guns, to the Leeward Islands; and, on the 11th of March 1787, married, at Nevis, the widow of Dr. Nisbet. He returned to England in June, and retired to Burnham Thorpe.

In 1793, on the war with France, he was appointed to the Agamemnon of 64 guns. His services, while in this ship, would alone fill a volume: in the mean time, he assisted occasionally on land; particularly, at the sieges of Bastia and Calvi, the latter of which cost him the sight of his right eye. In 1796, having been appointed to the Captain of 74 guns, he was raised, by Sir John Jervis, to the rank of commodore: a favour soon nobly repaid, in the famous battle of February 14, 1797; which so deservedly gave Sir John Jervis the title of Earl of St. Vincent, though Nelson's share in the victory made him largely participate the glory. He had been made rear-admiral, and was now created a knight of the Bath; but, in an attempt to take Santa Cruz, he lost his right arm, and was obliged to go to England, where he received every token of general admiration and regard. These were not a little increased by the list of services, in the memorial required on the grant of his pension of 1000*l.* a year; stating, "that he had, during the war, been in four actions with the fleets of the enemy; in three actions with frigates; in six engagements against batteries; in ten actions in boats employed in cutting out of harbours, in destroying vessels, and in taking three towns; that he had also served on shore, with the army, four months; assisted at the capture of seven sail of the line, six frigates, four corvettes, and eleven privateers; taken and destroyed near fifty sail of merchant vessels; and, in short, actually been engaged against the enemy upwards of one hundred and twenty times!"

These brilliant exploits were only to be eclipsed by his three following great victories; the important accounts of which will for ever occupy many of the proudest pages of our national history: the battle of the Nile, August 1, 1798; the battle of Copenhagen, April 2, 1801; and the battle of Trafalgar, October 21, 1805. In which last conflict, absolutely annihilating the naval power of our combined enemies, he nobly terminated his career of matchless glory; and expired, as it were, in the arms of Victory, exclaiming—"I have done my duty!"

GENERAL WASHINGTON.

GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON, who may be regarded as the first hero, as well as first president, of the United States of America, and a chief founder of that celebrated republic, principally established by his virtue and abilities, was the third son of Mr. Augustine Washington; and born, the 22d of February 1732, on the little estate in Virginia, to which his great grandfather had emigrated, from Cheshire in England, about the middle of the seventeenth century.

On the war of 1747, between England and France, he was only restrained from becoming a midshipman in the British Navy, by the tender solicitude of his widowed mother. Having completed his education, which never extended to the learned languages, he was employed some years as a land surveyor, and remarkable for the peculiar neatness and accuracy of his plans.

When only nineteen, he was appointed one of the adjutant generals of the Virginian militia; and in consequence of his extraordinary abilities, in perilous and difficult services, was advanced, in 1754, to the rank of colonel: but, disgusted by regulations from the war-office, shortly after, directing that senior provincial officers should be commanded by their juniors of the regular troops, he indignantly resigned; and, having succeeded by his brother's decease to Mount Vernon, thought of devoting himself to agricultural pursuits. He was, however, prevailed on, by General Braddock, to accompany him as a volunteer officer, on that memorable expedition, which terminated in the unfortunate general's defeat and death, July 8, 1755; and there so distinguished himself, that he was immediately appointed commander in chief of all the Virginian forces.

In 1758, he retired to Mount Vernon; where, in 1759, he married Mrs. Curtis, a young widow, with an ample fortune, who survived him. From this period to the commencement of the revolutionary contest, he applied himself to agricultural and other improvements, and became one of the greatest land proprietors in North America.

He was elected a member of the first congress, assembled at Philadelphia, October 26, 1774; and, in July 1775, unanimously appointed general and commander in chief. The sagacity of his cautious system in conducting the dreadful war that ensued, was proved by the event; and after seeing, at the peace of 1783, American independence acknowledged, he returned to his favourite pursuits in private life.

On the 30th of April 1789, he was proclaimed president of the United States, with every possible demonstration of joy; and so satisfactorily did he execute this high office, amidst all the turbulence of the times, that he was, at the end of the four years prescribed by the constitution, again unanimously chosen president. Anticipating, with the most consummate address, the plans of sedition, he timely checked insurrection; silenced discontents; and convinced the people, whom the French revolutionary envoy every where exeited to rebellion, of the wildness of their own inconsiderate projects, and the wisdom with which they were governed. Having signed a commercial treaty with Great Britain, in 1796, he retired from public life; and though, in 1798, he accepted the command of the army, his domestic employments were still blended with his official duties.

He died on the 14th of December 1799; and his remains were deposited, with all national honours, in that new city, erected on the borders of the Potomac, and made the capital of the United States; which, bearing the name of Washington, must ever be considered as the noblest monument of his country's gratitude, and of his glory.

× No, not at Washington — but at Mt. Vernon, on the Potomac river, 15 miles below Washington

MILTON.

WHAT Homer was to Greece, John Milton may be considered to England. He was the son of a respectable scrivener, in Bread-street, London; and born there, December 9, 1608. He was educated at St. Paul's school; where he made uncommon proficiency in classical learning, and gave strong proofs of poetical genius. In 1625, he became a student of Christ's college, Cambridge; and remaining there seven years, took his master's degree. He was intended for the church; but felt that he could not conscientiously accept the sacred office. His father, in the mean time, having retired on a handsome competency, to Horton, in Buckinghamshire, he resided at home for some years; diligently studying the best Greek and Latin authors, as well as cultivating arts and sciences. During this period, he wrote his incomparable Masque of Comus; his charming L'Allegro and Il Penseroso; and his celebrated Monody of Lycidas.

In the spring of 1638, with letters of recommendation from Sir Harry Wotton, provost of Eton, who had formerly resided at Venice as ambassador to James I. he went on his travels into France and Italy; and was every where received with the respect due to his extraordinary talents. Soon after his return, which was in August 1639, he formed an academical institution in Aldersgate-street, and became attached to Oliver Cromwell's party. With such earnestness, indeed, did he engage against Salmasius's Defence of Charles I. and of Monarchy, that his sight, said to have been before dim, was completely lost by intense application. Our poet, however, being now secretary to Oliver Cromwell, began to think seriously of producing some work of importance adequate to his own just sense of the dignified powers of his comprehensive mind. The result was, that after "long chusing and beginning late," he commenced that most stupendous and sublime poem, Paradise Lost; a work which, whatever may be its faults, certainly excels, on the whole, every production of modern ages, and ranks with the very first poems of antiquity.

It was not till after the Restoration, when he was included in the general pardon, which extended to all but the actual regicides, that he brought this divine poem to a completion. It has been the reproach of his age, that the copy-right produced him, at first, only five pounds; with a contingency of two other equal sums, on the sale of two thousand six hundred copies, making in the whole no more than fifteen!

The domestic life of this transcendent poet appears to have been peculiarly unfortunate. In 1643, he married Mary, daughter of Richard Powell, Esq. a loyal Oxfordshire magistrate; who, a few weeks after, on pretence of visiting her relations, quitted him, and refused to return. Disgusted by such treatment, he not only published tracts in favour of divorce, but actually paid his addresses to another lady: this induced Mrs. Milton to relent; and, in 1645, throwing herself at his feet, she obtained his forgiveness. In 1652, she died in childbed, with her fourth child, leaving him three daughters. He soon after married Catherine, daughter of Captain Woodcock; and lost her also in childbirth, within a year. In 1662, he married his third wife, Elizabeth Minshull, daughter of a Cheshire gentleman, to whom he left almost the whole of his property: his children, it seems, the youngest excepted, having "sold his books to the dunghill women," combined with and advised his servants to cheat him, left him and neglected him on account of his blindness, and even impiously expressed wishes for his death.

He had, for many years, been afflicted by the gout; and died, November 8, 1674, with all the calmness and composure of an exemplary Christian, at his house in Bunhill-fields. The funeral was numerously and splendidly attended, and his remains were deposited in the chancel of St. Giles, Cripplegate, near those of his father.

SIR ISAAC NEWTON.

THIS prodigy of philosophical and mathematical science was born at Woolsthorpe, in the parish of Colsterworth, Lincolnshire, on Christmas-day 1642, three months after the decease of his father.

At Grantham school, he gave strong proofs of uncommon genius: amusing himself, instead of playing with other boys, in mechanical contrivances, and making curiosities and models in wood. In short, he made wind-mills and water-clocks; and, having placed a mouse in one of the former, called it his miller, and joked about the miller's eating the corn put into the mill. Owing to these, and innumerable other fancies, which sometimes engrossed all his thoughts, he relied too much on his capacity, and was but low in his class; but a boy above him having given him a violent kick, he not only beat his antagonist, but resolved to get before him; and, from that time, continued rising, till he became head scholar. His mother, on the death of her second husband, the Rev. Barnabas Smith, rector of North Witham, returned to Woolsthorpe, and wished him to assist in managing the farm: but a short trial convinced her, that his attachment to study was invincible; and, prudently cherishing the laudable propensity, he was, at length, June 5, 1660, sent to Trinity College, Cambridge. The progress of his superlative genius was here marked with astonishment; and, before he reached his twenty-fourth year, he had laid the foundation of all his wonderful discoveries. In 1665, he produced his New Method of Infinite Series and Fluxions; the first fruit of his boundless invention. In 1668, while meditating in a garden, the accidental fall of some apples first led his thoughts to the subject of gravity, and gave rise to his noble System of the Universe.

In 1662, he was chosen a Fellow of the Royal Society; and, having brought his Theory of Light and Colours to great perfection, published it in their Transactions. The novelty of this system subverting the settled opinions of the world, he was attacked by a host of disputants; whose haste in performing his experiments, and their fallacious deductions, long harassed our philosopher. Thus he lost that tranquillity of life, which his native modesty preferred to the glory of philosophy, and was greatly deterred from communicating his farther discoveries. A visit from Dr. Halley encouraged him to give his celebrated Principia. This new system of philosophy, though built on the sublimest geometry, did not immediately meet with general applause. The fanciful theory of Descartes chiefly prevailed: his was the pleasing offspring of a fine imagination; while that of Newton was a painful and tedious pursuit of Nature through her most secret abodes. His wonderful merit, however, was at length recognized by all the world; and that famous French geometrician, the Marquis l'Hospital, scarcely believing him to be a mere mortal, inquired if he eat, or drank, or slept, like common men.

He was appointed Warden of the Mint, in 1696; in 1703, became President of the Royal Society; and, in 1704, published his Optics, which had engaged his attention for more than thirty years. He received the honour of knighthood from Queen Anne; and Caroline, queen of George II. by whose request he was induced to draw up his abstract of Chronology, frequently said, that she thought herself happy to have come into the world at a time which enabled her to converse with Sir Isaac Newton. On Monday, March 20, 1727, after long suffering the severest pangs of disease, which he bore with inconceivable fortitude, this great philosopher, who was never married, died at the age of 84, and was interred, with the utmost magnificence, at the public expense, in Westminster Abbey. Among all his books, the Bible was Sir Isaac Newton's chief favourite, and he was fully persuaded of the truth of Revelation; a praise which we could wish every mathematician equally merited!

ADDISON.

If English verse is indebted to Pope for its first perfection, English prose is under no less obligation to Addison. He was born, May 1672, at Milston, in Wiltshire, where his father, the Reverend Lancelot Addison, a very learned man, afterwards Dean of Lichfield, was at that time rector. He seemed so little likely to live, that he was baptised, and even laid out for dead, the day of his birth.

The first rudiments of his education were received at his native place, at Salisbury, and at Lichfield; from which last school, he was sent to the Charter-house, where his intimacy commenced with Sir Richard Steele. He early acquired a masterly knowledge of classical literature; and distinguished himself at Oxford, where he was admitted in 1687, by his fine compositions in Latin verse. But he was twenty-two years of age before he published any English performance; several poetical pieces then gained him much repute.

Having obtained the patronage of Sir John Somers, and a pension of 300*l.* a year, that he might be enabled to travel, he made the tour of Italy; and, inspired by the classic genius of the land, wrote his celebrated Epistle to Lord Hallifax.

In 1703, he returned home, poor and dejected. His future prospects were not now favourable; for his friends were out of power, and his pension had ceased on the death of King William. Solicited to celebrate in verse the splendid victories of Marlborough, he produced his Campaign; and was immediately appointed a commissioner of appeals.

In 1709, he became secretary to the Marquis of Wharton, then lord lieutenant of Ireland; and, during his residence in that kingdom, assisted his friend Steele, the author of the Tatler, with several pieces distinguished for their superior merit. The town was enchanted by these concise and elegant essays; which were alike admitted to the tables of coffee-houses, and the toilettes of the fair. The Spectator, which soon followed, was received with an ardour honourable to the national taste. This work was succeeded by the Guardian, and other periodical essays; in which the politics as well as the genius of Addison prompted him to engage. They were all equally characterized by a felicity of composition, which united to exquisite humour the graces of fine writing.

In 1713, appeared his famous tragedy of Cato, which was long gazed on as a dramatic miracle. It is not one of its inferior applauses, that it has been translated into various languages, by the most eminent writers.

In 1716, he married the Countess Dowager of Warwick; but the union was more splendid than happy. It has been remarked, that Addison left behind him no encouragement for ambitious love.

In 1717, he was appointed one of the secretaries of state to George I. But the duties of this situation being uncongenial to his accustomed habits, he solicited his dismission. On the 17th of June 1719, feeling his dissolution near, and desirous that a scene so awful might have its due effect, he requested to see his son in law, Lord Warwick; and forcibly grasping the youth's hand, softly said—"See how a Christian can die!" This was with difficulty uttered: and, shortly after, he expired; leaving his only child, Charlotte, born the preceding year. He died at Holland House, near Kensington; and, after laying in state, in the Jerusalem Chamber, was buried in Westminster Abbey.

Addison, as a poet, does not now attract notice. As a writer of familiar essays, which combine a knowledge of mankind with a humour truly original; a critical power, which if not profound is pleasing; and a facility of imagination, which is the most evident mark of genius; our author will be regarded as inimitable.

HOGARTH.

THIS truly original genius, our unrivalled comic painter, was a native of the city of London, and born in 1697. After a tolerable education by his father, who kept a school in Ship-court, in the Old Bailey, he was apprenticed to an engraver of arms and cyphers on plate, usually called a silver engraver; but the powerful impulse of genius directed his studies to painting.

Much of his early life was passed in obscurity. He chiefly employed his talents in designing and engraving for the booksellers, who were then much worse patrons of the arts than they have since proved. His originality, in the mean time, was maturing to perfection. He pursued Nature through her infinity; and contemplated her, not through the optics of imitation, but with his own sedulous and critical eye. On beholding a remarkable countenance, or witnessing any striking occurrence, he was accustomed, by the instant use of his pencil, to preserve its remembrance; sometimes, even on his nails.

In 1730, he married the only daughter of Sir James Thornhill. This union was, indeed, a stolen one. But the growing reputation of Hogarth at length effected a reconciliation with his father-in-law; and his Harlot's Progress, published in 1731, announced to the public the rich acquisition of a Comic Painter. His merit now became conspicuous; and his pencil acquired, at every exertion, additional reputation. His Marriage A-la-mode, produced in 1745, gave rise to the celebrated comedy of the Clandestine Marriage. In 1753, he published his Analysis of Beauty. In this work he proves, by a variety of examples, that "a curve is the line of beauty, and that round swelling figures are most pleasing to the eye." An opinion confirmed by subsequent writers.

The close of his life was embittered by a satirical contention with Churchill and Mr. Wilkes. Hogarth caricatured Churchill, and Churchill lampooned Hogarth. "Never," says Lord Orford, "did two angry men, of their abilities, throw mud with less dexterity." Both, it may be added, were much nearer their end than, probably, either of them imagined. Churchill, it is true, in his poem of Independence, published the last week of September 1764, with scarcely justifiable severity of sarcasm, thus announces the *departed genius* of his antagonist—

> "Hogarth would draw him, envy must allow,
> Even to the life, *was Hogarth living now.*"

He knew, however, that Hogarth, though his health was visibly in a declining state, had recently given proofs of a still vigorous genius.

On the 25th of October 1764, Hogarth came, in a very weak condition, but remarkably cheerful, from his house at Chiswick, to that in Leicester Fields; and, receiving an agreeable letter from Dr. Franklin, wrote a rough copy of his answer: but, on going to bed, was seized with a sudden sickness, rung his bell with a violence which broke it, and died in about two hours. He was interred at Chiswick, where there is a monument erected to his memory, with an epitaph written by his friend Garrick. It is remarkable, that Churchill, in all probability, never heard of his decease; having himself expired, in France, a few days after, November 5, 1764.

Hogarth has the glory of forming a school, and the master remains unrivalled by his scholars. He paints to the understanding, and the heart; and his pictures may serve as annals of the manners of the age. He is, in painting, what Fielding is in romance, or Moliere in comedy.

The above portrait is copied from a very scarce print, engraved by Hogarth himself; the original, when it can be met with, usually sells for three guineas.

VOLTAIRE.

This universal genius—a poet and an historian, a philosopher and a wit—was born at Paris, on the 20th of February 1694, and lived to the age of 85, notwithstanding his life had at his birth been despaired of, and he passed this protracted period of human existence in the most constant studies. In his earliest compositions he displayed great facility of genius; and his very promising abilities, manifested in childhood, were cherished by Ninon de l'Enclos, who bequeathed him two thousand livres for the purchase of a library.

In 1718, his first tragedy, that of Œdipus, was represented with the most brillant success. His satirical talents, however, procured him a residence in the Bastile; where he sketched his celebrated epic poem, the Henriade. Scarcely liberated from this literary inquisition, before he was again threatened with its prosecution, he abandoned his native country; and, arriving in London, was most favourably received.

In England, his singular prosperity commenced; and to Englishmen he was ever partial. His Henriade is dedicated to Queen Caroline; and he even wrote the dedication in our language. During his residence in this country, he familiarized his taste to our best authors, imitated them in his writings, and introduced them to the notice of the French nation. Pope and Sir Isaac Newton were alike indebted to him; but he had the hardiness to attack the writings of our immortal Shakspeare, which it is evident he never thoroughly understood.

In 1728, he returned to France; where, with the money got in England, he engaged largely in a lottery established by the comptroller-general of the finances, and other speculations, and was eminently successful: nor did he less busily engage in his favourite literary pursuits. His Brutus, characterised as the most nervous of all his tragedies, appeared in 1730; which was soon followed by Zara, considered as the most pathetic. His Mahomet and Merope, produced a few years after, placed him at the head of the dramatic poets of France. Introduced by Madame Pompadour, he became a favourite at court; and he now obtained rewards, he tells us, which had never been granted to his works or his services. "I was deemed worthy to be one of the forty useless members of the academy, was appointed historiographer of France, and created by the king one of the gentlemen in ordinary of his chamber." At length, pestered by enemies, in 1746, he accepted an invitation from the King of Prussia, with a pension of 22,000 livres. The quarrel between Voltaire and the great Frederic is better known than the cause. Disgusted, however, with his splendid servitude, and not permitted to return to Paris, he at length retired to the village of Ferney, in the neighbourhood of Geneva; which then contained only about fifty peasants, but soon became, under his auspices, the residence of 1200 persons. Instead of dying peaceably in this retirement, like a true philosopher, his excessive vanity intrigued for his return to Paris; where, on the 30th of May 1778, he fell a victim to that agitation of mind which a public coronation of him occasioned.

The character of Voltaire, who was never married, includes the most striking contrast. He was humane, and malevolent; a philosopher, and an enthusiast; adulative, and satirical; avaricious, and liberal. He united the modesty of a sage, with the vanity of a man of the world. He was, at once, an Aristippus and a Diogenes.

As an historian, he is little better than an agreeable romancer; as a philosopher, he is more impious than profound. It is, alone, as a wit and a splendid poet, that he stands unrivalled among his countrymen.

SHERIDAN.

As an elegant dramatic poet, a most fascinating orator, and a brilliant wit, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Esq. second son of Mr. Thomas Sheridan, the celebrated orator, actor, and author, by the still more celebrated Mrs. Frances Sheridan, the charming writer of Sidney Biddulph, &c. must ever hold a distinguished station in the higher ranks of superior genius and ability. He was born in October 1751, at Dublin; in August 1759, came to England; and, in 1762, was sent to Harrow school. At the time of quitting, having lost his excellent mother, his father resided at Bath; where he read lectures to subscribers, and gave private lessons on elocution, assisted by his eldest son, Charles Francis. When those curious transactions took place in this fashionable city, which gave rise to Foote's comedy of the Maid of Bath, it appeared that Miss Linley, the vocal heroine, who had, among her numerous admirers, been addressed by Mr. Charles Sheridan, preferred the eloquence of the younger brother to that of all competitors; and, after two desperate duels with Captain Matthews, he finally bore away the prize. On the 6th of April 1773, Sheridan, who proposed studying the law, was entered a member of the Middle Temple; and, on the 13th, the lovers were married.

In January 1775, his comedy of the Rivals, the outline of which corresponds with his marriage, was first performed at Covent Garden theatre. His Duenna, next season, having a run of seventy-five nights, ten more than the Beggar's Opera, completely established his reputation as a dramatic writer; and, in June 1776, Mr. Garrick sold his half of Drury Lane theatre to Mr. Sheridan, his father-in-law Mr. Linley, and Dr. Ford. On the 8th of May 1777, his famous School for Scandal made its first appearance; unquestionably the most elegant and captivating comedy of our times. Garrick wrote the prologue, attended the rehearsals, and every where triumphantly boasted of the genius possessed by the new manager whom he had selected to succeed him.

In January 1779, his celebrated Monody on the death of Garrick was recited by Mrs. Yates; and, early in the ensuing season, appeared his Critic, or Tragedy Rehearsed.

About the time of Mr. Garrick's decease, the affairs of the theatre seem to have been in considerable disorder; and shortly after, Mr. Sheridan contrived to get into parliament, as member for Stafford. From this period, his progress as a political character, for more than thirty years, will occupy a large portion of our parliamentary and historical annals. But, though he frequently gained, by his wonderful eloquence, "the applause of listening senators," all his long and ardent struggles for power, as one of the most active and brilliant leaders of the opposition party, distinguished by the appellation of "the talents," neither obtained him rank nor emoluments equal to his expectations; and, in the mean time, as a theatrical manager, if not as a statesman, he certainly disappointed the expectations of the public.

On the death of Mr. Pitt, he was for a few months treasurer of the navy; and, in 1808, the Prince of Wales conferred on him, for life, the patent place of receiver-general of the duchy of Cornwall. Such, however, was the state of his finances, that when he could no longer secure the protection of a seat in parliament, he had been so incessantly harassed by the harpies of the law, that his life was become an intolerable burden. It is painful to record, that a man of such astonishing talents should have died, though at his own home, in a state of actual arrest; but consoling to add, that his end, after all his sufferings, and by whatever occasioned, was that of a penitential Christian, on Sunday, July 7, 1816. He was interred in Westminster Abbey; his funeral being attended by the Dukes of York, Sussex, Bedford, &c.

GARRICK.

DAVID GARRICK, our immortal and inimitable actor, whose ability to represent was only equalled by the genius of Shakspeare to create, all the variable characters of the drama, and who also possessed no inconsiderable portion of poetic excellence, was born the 20th of February 1716, in the city of Hereford; where his father, Captain Peter Garrick, who usually resided at Lichfield, happened then to be with a recruiting party.

He was early admired, as a most sprightly and diverting boy; engaging the attention of all who knew him, by his singular questions, smart repartees, and frolicsome actions. At the age of about ten years, he was sent to Lichfield grammar-school; where, though remarkable for declining puerile diversions, he did not apply himself with any assiduity to his books. His passion for theatrical representation, in the mean time, soon discovered itself; for, before he had reached his twelfth year, he contrived to get up the Recruiting Officer, and performed the part of Serjeant Kite with astonishing spirit and vivacity. Not long after, he went to his uncle, a wine-merchant at Lisbon; where the English merchants, with whom he often dined, usually placed him on the table, after dinner, to recite speeches from plays. On his return from Portugal, being intended for the bar, he again went to Lichfield-school; and, in 1736, became a pupil of the celebrated Dr. Johnson, who was little more inclined to teaching than Garrick to be taught. When some exercise or theme was expected to be finished, he produced several scenes of a new comedy which had occupied his attention; being, as he said, his third attempt at dramatic poetry: and Johnson himself having written the tragedy of Irene, both of them, finally, the pupil, perhaps, in this instance becoming the preceptor, agreed to visit the metropolis.

It was not, however, till the summer of 1741, that Garrick, having lost both parents, "hitherto restrained by nothing but tenderness for so dear a relation as a mother," resolved fairly to try his fortune, under the name of Lyddal, on the Ipswich stage.

Such, and so rapid, was his celebrity, that, on the 19th of October, in the same year, he appeared before a London audience, at the theatre in Goodman's Fields; when his wonderful excellence made such an impression on the public, that the carriages of the nobility and gentry are said to have often filled up the space from Temple Bar to Whitechapel. In 1742, he was engaged by Mr. Fleetwood, patentee of Drury Lane; from whom, in 1747, he and Mr. Lacy purchased the patent of that theatre, which opened with Dr. Johnson's famous prologue written for the occasion. About two years after, he married Mademoiselle Violetti; with whom, from 1763 to 1765, he travelled in France and Italy. In 1769, he conducted the memorable Shakspeare Jubilee, at Stratford-upon-Avon: but Mr. Lacy dying, he disposed of his share of the patent, in 1776, to Mr. Sheridan, Mr. Linley, and Dr. Ford; and, after gratifying his admirers, by appearing in many favourite characters, took a most affectionate and affecting leave of the public.

To enumerate the talents of Mr. Garrick would require a volume. He was, to speak generally, the most chaste actor, both in tragedy and comedy, that ever trod the stage; and there are no less than thirty-seven dramatic pieces, most of them on the stock-list, which he either originally wrote, translated, or judiciously altered, and adapted to the taste of modern times. For assistance of the latter description, even Shakspeare himself stands indebted to him. Mr. Garrick died, January 20, 1779; and his funeral was attended by many of the nobility, and persons of distinguished talents: who saw his remains deposited in Westminster Abbey, beneath the monument of his adored Shakspeare; an honour which no person ever better merited. Mrs. Garrick still survives, but they never had any offspring.

LAVATER.

JOHN CASPAR LAVATER, the most celebrated physiognomist ever known, a very respectable poet, and an eminently pious divine, twelfth child of Henry Lavater, a physician at Zurich in Switzerland, was born there on the 15th of November 1741. At seven years of age, he entered the Latin school; and, from about this period, his mental faculties unfolded themselves, a strong sense of religion dawned in his bosom, and the germ of his enthusiastic ardour began to expand. His imagination was now continually at work, to conceive and plan what might appear uncommon and extraordinary. He mingled with his school studies mechanical operations, and discovered genius and invention in his amusements. His diligence in learning, when he reached the upper classes, was improved by a strong desire to emulate students of superior talents; and, with a mode of thinking, original, liberal, and manly, he early wrote moral and religious essays, both in prose and verse, which obtained him the hearts of his countrymen, and he never lost them.

In June 1766, he married a very amiable young lady, daughter of an eminent merchant: and after being deacon and preacher to the orphan house at Zurich, &c. some years, the parishioners of St. Peter, the only persons in the whole canton who have the privilege of chusing their own minister, elected him, in 1786, first pastor.

At the request of the Helvetic Society, he first wrote his popular Swiss Songs. He published three collections of Hymns, or Spiritual Songs; two volumes of Odes in blank verse; Jesus Messiah, or the Evangelists and Acts of the Apostles, a poetical history of our Saviour, with seventy-two engravings from his own designs; the Secret Journal of a Self Observer; and Aphorisms, translated into English, by his countryman, fellow-student, and faithful friend, Henry Fuseli, Esq. our celebrated painter of imagination. Most of these productions, and particularly the two last, unveil his secret transactions, and discover the sensations of his heart; with which, it may safely be asserted, every good heart will feel generally in unison. All these, were fruits of his genius and ability, independent of that vast work, the labour of many years, on which his great fame is chiefly founded, his celebrated Essays on Physiognomy, 3 vols. 4to, with a vast number of illustrative engravings. These Essays, which form an astonishing assemblage of original ideas, curious observations, subtle and refined reasoning, nice feeling, and philanthropic and pious sentiments, have been translated into all the principal languages of Europe.

This great and good man, when Zurich was taken by storm, September 29, 1799, had just given wine, and tendered money, to a miscreant French soldier, who inhumanly shot him through the side. Even while he languished with this fatal wound, he wrote and dictated letters, supposed to be written by the Apostle Paul before his Conversion; and his last literary production, Zurich at the Beginning of the Nineteenth Century, a very spirited poem, was finished only a fortnight before his death. He had also commenced a work, which he called his Swan's Song, or the last Thoughts of a departing Christian on Jesus of Nazareth, but found himself incapable of bringing it to a conclusion.

He died on Friday, January 2, 1801; leaving a daughter, Louisa, married to M. Gessner, who has published memoirs of her father's life.

Lavater, in his various writings, is not without some small portion of paradox; and some traits of that mysticism, which gives a character of extravagance and enthusiasm to whatever is unsusceptible of being demonstrated and defined with mathematical precision. It is, however, abundantly manifest, that he was actuated, in all he proposed, and all he performed, by an ardent desire to promote the honour of God, the love of truth, and the good of his fellow-mortals.

LOCKE.

JOHN LOCKE, one of our greatest philosophers, was born at Wrington, near Bristol, August 29, 1632. When the civil war broke out, his father was a captain in the parliament's service: the son, however, received his education at Westminster, and afterwards became a student at Christchurch, Oxford. In 1658, having taken his degree in arts, he applied himself to physic; but, though he acquired some repute at Oxford, his feeble constitution discouraged him from pursuing it as a profession. He derived his first relish for the study of philosophy from the writings of Descartes; which he always found perspicuous, but not always containing sentiments which he could approve.

In 1666, an accidental introduction to lord Ashley, subsequently earl of Shafteshury, whom he cured of a dangerous abscess in the breast, gave him a valuable patron. Two years after, he was elected a fellow of the royal society; and, in 1670, began to sketch the plan of his Essay on Human Understanding. In 1674, he travelled into France; and, being inclinable to a consumption, passed a considerable time at Montpellier, not inattentive to the progress of his great work. In 1679, he returned to England, at the desire of his patron; but, in less than half a year, followed the earl into Holland, who fled from England, to avoid a prosecution for high-treason. Locke himself was strongly suspected, by government; and our philosopher lost his student's place at Oxford, in consequence of an order from Charles II. Administration demanding him from the States of Holland, he withdrew into concealment; and passed the year in writing several books, and perfectioning his Essay.

At the glorious revolution in 1688, he came over with the fleet which brought the princess of Orange: and, in 1689, published both his celebrated Essay on Human Understanding; and his two Treatises on Government, fully vindicating the principles on which the revolution was founded. He might now have obtained a very considerable post. For the only reward of his past sufferings, he accepted that of commissioner of appeals, worth 200*l.* per annum. It was left to his choice, to go abroad in a public character; but he preferred withdrawing into a delightful retreat, at Oates, in Essex, the seat of Sir Francis Masham. He found a congenial mind in Lady Masham, who regarded him with the affection of a votarist. Several of his works were produced in this retirement. In 1695, he was made commissioner of trade and plantation; which, in 1700, his infirm state of health compelled him to resign. In 1697, he drew up the excellent Report of the Board of Trade, to the Lords Justices, respecting the relief and employment of the poor; a tract which well merits the attention of the legislature.

On the 28th of October 1704, he died of the asthma, his constitutional disorder; and was interred in the church at Oates, where there is an inscription written by himself. His works, which are numerous, have been published by Bishop Law, in three volumes folio, in four volumes quarto, and lately in nine volumes octavo, forming a noble and a durable monument.

Locke, as a metaphysician, analyzed the human mind, and traced its operations with a marvellous sagacity; and, as a politician, he enforced the principle of toleration, and the love of liberty. With regard to religion, he professed himself "in perfect charity with all men; and in a sincere communion with the church of Christ, by what name soever it might be distinguished." In a private letter, Lady Masham says, "his death, like his life, was truly pious; yet natural, easy, and unaffected: nor can time, I think, ever produce a more eminent example of reason and religion, than he was, living and dying."

POPE.

For the honour of giving birth to our transcendently favourite poet, Alexander Pope, the first great master of elegant and refined English verse, two rival cities may claim to contend; like the ten cities of Greece, for that of his prototype, Homer: some of his numerous biographers asserting, that he was born, May 22, 1688, in Lombard-street, in the city of London, where his father was a linen-draper; and others, that he was born, June 8, 1688, in the Strand, in the city of Westminster, where his father was a hatter. In the mean time, it seems sufficient to state, generally, that he was born in the metropolis, in 1688; where his father acquired a fortune in trade.

So pleasing was his infantine voice, that his friends fondly called him "the little nightingale;" and, from the earliness of his poetical efforts, his cradle may be said to have been surrounded by the Muses. He was first taught to read by an affectionate aunt; and contrived to write, by copying printed books. The rudiments of the Greek and Latin languages he originally acquired from priests, his parents being both of the Roman Catholic persuasion. He was sent to a seminary, at Twyford, near Winchester; but, having written some severe verses on his master, the young satyrist was removed. At the age of twelve, retiring, with his parents, to Binfield, in Windsor Forest, he cultivated his talents with an ardour of study, and a maturity of taste, very far above his years.

His Pastorals introduced him to public notice. He was early taught to distinguish himself by correctness; the only quality in which English poetry, after Dryden, was conceived to have been deficient. He seized the hint, and it has rendered him unrivalled.

In 1708, appeared his Essay on Criticism. His learning and good sense were now admired; but his next poem, the Rape of the Lock, allured by the brilliancy of fancy, the melody of versification, and the higher requisites of poetry. That enchanting poem owed its origin to a furtive frolic of gallantry, in which Lord Petre had sportively cut off a favourite lock of Mrs. Arabella Fermor's hair. This familiarity occasioning a serious rupture between the two families, a friend of both requested Mr. Pope would write something which might restore them to better humour with each other. Accordingly, he published two cantos of the Rape of the Lock. These being read with universal admiration, he enlarged the poem to five cantos; and, by the addition of the machinery of the sylphs, rendered it the most elegant mock-heroic poem ever written.

In 1713, desirous of reaping something more than barren laurels, he issued proposals for a translation of Homer's Iliad. Happily, it was the age of poetical patronage; and from this work, including the Odyssey, he derived a fortune of near 10,000*l.* the largest sum, perhaps, that any poet ever yet acquired. The lovers of poetry will not, however, consider it as equalling the singular merits of this version; which is to be regarded as a treasury of English poetry, a mine of the purest gold! He now purchased his celebrated villa at Twickenham; and retired, to enjoy the very rare union of poetry and independence.

It has been lamented that, in this Tusculum, he should have so frequently indulged his Horatian vein of satire: but, though he produced satire, he also produced his Essay on Man; the most perfect model of didactic verse and philosophical poetry.

Many will agree, that Pope, among the English poets, resembles Virgil among the Latins. Pure, correct, and harmonious, he has oftener seized the delicacies of taste, than displayed the charmful power of genius. Let it not, however, be supposed, that he was deficient in the higher qualification: his judgment would not suffer him to employ it, where it could not be employed with propriety.

He died March 30, 1744, aged 56; and was buried at Twickenham, where a monument has been erected by his great commentator, Warburton, bishop of Gloucester.

SIR WILLIAM BLACKSTONE.

THIS renowned English lawyer was born in Cheapside, July 10, 1723. His father, an eminent silkman, dying previously to the birth of this fourth son, Mr. Tbomas Bigg, maternal uncle, a respectable surgeon, with an affectionate zeal for the welfare of all his sister's children, immediately took on himself the entire care of their education and fortune. About the age of twelve, his mother also died: in the mean time, her youngest son having been early sent to the Charter-house, so rapid was his improvement, that he became head scholar before he was fifteen; and from thence, November 30, 1738, was entered a commoner, at Pembroke college, Oxford. At this early period of life, he obtained Mr. Benson's gold prize-medal of Milton, for verses on that poet; and, before he was twenty, though entered a student of the Middle Temple, he compiled, for his own use only, an ingenious treatise on the Elements of Architecture. In November 1743, he was elected into the society of All Souls college; and, in 1744, admitted actual fellow; from which period, he divided his time between the university and the metropolis. On the 28th of November 1746, he was called to the bar; and few lovers of poetry are unacquainted with his celebrated Lawyer's Farewel to the Muses. Three years afterwards, he was elected recorder of the borough of Wallingford, in Berkshire; and, in April 1750, became doctor of laws. Though so able a lawyer, not possessing the popular powers of oratory, his profits at the bar were insufficient to defray the contingent expenses.

In 1754, he began to read his lectures on the laws of England; and published, soon after, his analysis of these laws, as a guide to his auditors. In July 1755, he was appointed one of the delegates of the Clarendon press, and effected great improvements in that establishment. On the 20th of October 1758, he was unanimously elected first Vinerian professor of the common law; and, on the 25th, read his introductory lecture, since prefixed to his Commentaries. In March 1761, he was returned to the new parliament for Hindon, in Wiltshire; on the 5th of May, married Sarah, eldest surviving daughter of James Clitherow, Esq. of Boston House, Middlesex; and, on the 28th of July, his fellowship at All Souls being vacated by his marriage, he was appointed principal of New Inn Hall. In 1762, he republished several of his pieces, under the title of Law Tracts, in 2 vols. 8vo. and, the year following, became solicitor-general to the queen, and a bencher of the Middle Temple.

In November 1764, appeared the first volume of his Lectures, under the title of Commentaries on the Laws of England; and, in the succeeding years, tbe other three volumes. This celebrated work astonished the world, by giving to law literature a polish of which it was not thought susceptible. In no former instance, had sound legal knowledge, and elegant literature, been so happily united. In 1770, the abilities of this great and good man were rewarded by his being made one of the Judges of the court of Common Pleas; and the remainder of his life was continually employed either in his professional duties, or in some plan of public utility. He died, February 14, 1780; leaving four surviving sons, and three daughters, out of nine children, the eldest under seventeen. He was buried, by his own direction, in his parish church of St. Peter's, Wallingford; his neighbour and friend, Dr. Barrington, then bishop of Landaff, and since of Durham, agreeably to his particular request, performing the funeral service. Since his death, have been published, pursuant to his will, Reports of Cases determined in the several Courts of Westminster, from 1746 to 1779, in 2 vols. folio; with an excellent biographical preface, by his brother-in-law, James Clitherow, Esq. A fine statue of Judge Blackstone, executed by Bacon, has been erected to his memory, in the hall of All Souls, Oxford.

DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH.

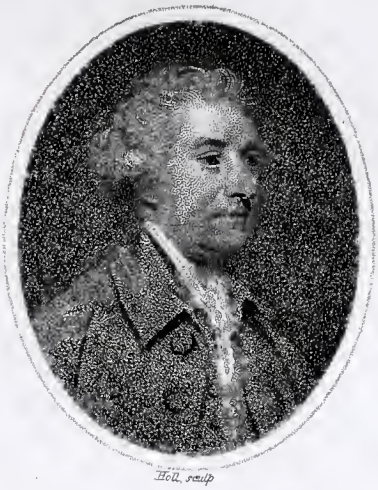
JOHN CHURCHILL, Duke of Marlborough, one of the very greatest of our British military heroes, was the eldest son of Sir Winston Churchill; and born at Ashe, in the county of Devon, Midsummer-day 1650. At the age of sixteen, he had a pair of colours in the guards; and soon after went to Tangier, then in our possession, against the Moors. He afterwards served, under the duke of Monmouth, against the Dutch, with the English auxiliaries in the pay of France. The French, who at this time called him the handsome Englishman, claim the honour of having taught him his first military lessons. From Marshal Turenne, who was indisputably a most skilful general, he might certainly learn much, but nature had richly gifted him with every requisite to form an illustrious hero. The French king thanked him, for his behaviour, at the head of the lines; and assured him, that it should be represented to his own sovereign. Accordingly, he was made a lieutenant-colonel by Charles II. and gentleman of the bed-chamber and master of the robes, to the duke of York.

In 1681, being in Scotland, he married Sarah Jennings, attendant on Lady Anne, afterwards Queen Anne, then universally admired for her person and wit. On returning to England, he was shipwrecked near the Humber, but escaped in the boat which preserved his royal highness, though a hundred and twenty persons perished on the occasion.

At the battle of the Boyne, in Ireland, he greatly distinguished himself; and King William observed, that he had never seen a soldier who had less experience, or more ability. His skill and valour form the glory of Queen Anne's reign; and his dismission, when his military services were no longer wanted, disgraced at once the sovereign and the nation. It availed but little that they had erected for him the ponderous palace of Blenheim, to perpetuate the remembrance of that famous battle, with 5000*l.* a year for its support; since they could so soon yield him up a victim to the slanders of his enemies, and induce him to quit the country he had so long adorned. He was, however, wisely recalled and reinstated, on the accession of George I. in 1714; and his advice was of great service in crushing the rebellion of the following year.

The Duke of Marlborough required no plan of the campaign written by any minister. He was, at once, master of the court, the parliament, the war, and the finances. More a king than William III. had ever been; equally politic; and a far superior soldier. He possessed that tranquillity of courage in the midst of tumult, and that serenity of soul in every danger, which are nature's choicest gifts for a commander. An active and indefatigable warrior during the campaign, he became an equally diligent and skilful negociator in the winter; visiting every court, and raising new enemies against the ambitious projects of France.

Some years prior to his death, the Duke of Marlborough resigned all his public employs. The fact is, that he who escaped from so many perils abroad, had received a mortal wound at home: and, his reason yielding to the stroke, after living some time in a state of childish idiotcy, he expired at Windsor Lodge, on the 16th of June 1722, aged 73 years; and was interred, with the greatest solemnity, in Westminster Abbey. His eldest son, the marquis of Blandford, died at Cambridge, in the eighteenth year of his age: but he left four daughters to survive him; as well as his famous duchesss dowager, who lived till October 18, 1744. It has been remarked, that the duke owed to this extraordinary woman both his rise and his fall. Lord Hailes says, that Sarah duchess of Marlborough hated courts where she had no influence; and became, at length, "the most ferocious animal that is suffered to go loose, a violent party woman."



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BURKE.

Edmund Burke, one of the greatest orators ever known, and an eminently elegant and energetic political writer, was born in Dublin, the first day of 1730. He was second son of an attorney: and educated at Ballytore school; and Trinity college, Dublin.

In 1753, he came to London; and, entering himself of the Middle Temple, studied with such assiduity as greatly to injure his health: when his countryman, Dr. Nugent, finding him dangerously ill, removed him to his own house; where the kind and anxious attention of the worthy physician's daughter, Miss Jane Mary, made so powerful an impression on the patient's heart, that they were married soon after his recovery.

In 1756, he published his first regular work, a Vindication of Natural Society; in which, by an ironical preference of natural to artificial or political society, with a felicitous imitation of Bolingbroke's own style and manner, he exposes the false philosophy of that author. In 1757, his Essay on the Sublime and Beautiful completely established his literary fame; and, in 1758, he proposed to Mr. Dodsley the plan of the Annual Register. He went, in 1761, to Dublin, where he obtained a pension of 300*l.*; and now regularly entered on the great theatre of political life. The marquis of Rockingham, in 1765, being first lord of the treasury, made him his private secretary; munificently enabled him to purchase the Buckinghamshire estate; and procured him to be returned member for Wendover. His eloquence excited universal admiration, and soon occasioned him to be regarded as chief orator of the Rockingham party, in the house of commons. From the commencement of the American war he was a constant advocate for the colonists; and, in 1774, freely elected member for Bristol: by favouring, however, against the immediate interests of his constituents, the commerce of Ireland—and, contrary to popular opinion, the cause of the Roman catholics—he found it necessary, in 1780, to secure his seat for Malton. In the short period of the Rockingham administration, he was paymaster-general; and, on the famous coalition with lord North, shared the success and the censures of his colleagues. Of Pitt's administration, he was a vehement opposer; more particularly on the regency bill, when his violence of temper led him to outrage all propriety. On this occasion, as well as in several stages of that wonderful display of gigantic ability evinced in the impeachment and protracted trial of governor Hastings, he certainly degraded himself, beyond the power of, probably, even his own ultimate approval.

On the fall of the French monarchy, however, contemplated with such satisfaction by his political friends, the early opponent of Bolingbroke resolved that he would no longer "to party give up what was meant for mankind." Accordingly, in October 1790, he published his famous Reflections on the French Revolution, of which eighteen thousand copies were sold in a few weeks. Having formally renounced the party, by his Appeal from the New to the Old Whigs; on the acquittal of governor Hastings, he vacated his seat, and retired to Beaconsfield: where, the beginning of 1794, he had to lament the death of his brother Richard; which was followed, August 2, by the still severer stroke of losing his only son. Soon after, his majesty granted him pensions to the amount of 3,700*l.*; the charge of receiving which, as the price of changing his principles, and deserting his friends, he ably repelled, in a letter of eloquent and keen sarcasm, addressed to Earl Fitzwilliam. His last work was the celebrated Thoughts on a Regicide Peace.

He died, July 8, 1797; and was interred, as he had directed, in Beaconsfield church, close to his son and brother. His entire works, published in five volumes quarto, or ten octavo, will for ever prove a most sublime and beautiful monument of solid glory; whatever may be the inscription finally accorded, by the pen of history, respecting the extent of utility, the consistency, and the disinterestedness, of his political character.

DR. FRANKLIN.

THE celebrated DR. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN was born, January 17, 1706, at Boston, in New England. He was the youngest son of a very numerous family; and his father, a tallow-chandler, took him from school, at the age of ten, to assist in the business. He preferred being a sailor; but was, at length, bound apprentice to one of his brothers, a printer. Anxious to improve his mind, he confined himself to vegetable diet, that he might save sufficient to buy books, out of his allowance for board; and found his apprehension much quicker, by temperance in eating and drinking. At the age of seventeen, thus early in life eager for independence, he fled from the despotism of his fraternal master, to Philadelphia, where he obtained employ as a journeyman; and, soon attracting the notice of governor Keith, was advised to commence business for himself. With this view, he came to England, December 24, 1724: but, finding the governor had given him fallacious hopes of procuring materials, after working two years in London, he returned to Philadelphia as a merchant's clerk. In 1727, his employer dying, he again followed his own business; till, in partnership with a young man, whose father supplied capital, he commenced printing and publishing the second newspaper in Philadelphia. In 1730, he was united to a young woman whom he had courted before her first marriage. Availing himself, with his pen, of the powers of a newspaper, he became acquainted with most of the chief people in the province, and soon rose to consideration. He had established a club, under the name of the Junto; whose members discussed various points of morals, politics, and natural philosophy, and read essays which they purposely composed. Out of this emanated, in 1731, a subscription library, for which a charter was finally obtained, proving the mother of all the numerous North American subscription libraries, and their important consequences.

In 1736, he was appointed clerk to the general assembly; in 1737, post-master of Philadelphia; and, in the war of 1744, proposed the plan of a volunteer association, which was signed by 10,000 persons. About this period, he commenced those electrical experiments, which were published, in London, under the title of New Experiments and Observations on Electricity, made at Philadelphia, in America. In 1747, he was chosen a representative of Philadelphia in the general assembly of Pennsylvania; and, though no orator, was soon regarded as the head of the opposition.

In 1757, having been previously, in 1753, appointed deputy postmaster general, he came to England with a petition to the king and council; and, succeeding to the satisfaction of the state, remained as agent for Pennsylvania, and also for Massachusett's, Maryland, and Georgia. He now divided his time between philosophy and politics: and was admitted a fellow of the royal society; and honoured with the degree of doctor of laws, by the university of Oxford. In 1766, he was examined at the bar of the house of commons, respecting the stamp act, which was shortly after repealed; and, on the 29th of January 1774, before the privy council, on a petition against governor Hutchinson: soon after which, he was removed from his office of postmaster general of America.

He returned home in 1775; and being elected a member of the congress, had a principal share in effecting the independence of the united states. He was employed, in 1778, to negociate a treaty of offensive and defensive alliance with the French, which produced the war between England and France. In 1783, he signed the definitive treaty of peace; and, in 1785, returned to America, where he was twice chosen president of the supreme council. In 1788, he requested and obtained permission to retire; and died the 17th of April 1790: leaving one son, the late governor Franklin, a zealous loyalist; and one daughter, married to a merchant in Philadelphia.

SIR RICHARD STEELE.

Though SIR RICHARD STEELE was born in 1671, at Dublin, his parents were both natives of England. He quitted Ireland very young; and was educated, with his friend Addison, at the Charter House, London. His father, professionally a barrister, being private secretary to James first duke of Ormond, one of the governors of that seminary, obtained a presentation for his son: who went from thence to Merton college, Oxford; where, in 1695, he wrote a poem, called the Procession, on the funeral of queen Mary. His first regular work, the Christian Hero, was written for his own private use, while an ensign in the guards, and published in 1701. Finding himself measured too minutely by the standard of religion in this book, and feeling it expedient to enliven his character by some less sombre subject, he produced his comedy of the Funeral, or Grief à-la-mode; which was performed in 1702, with very great applause. In the mean time, lord Cutts, to whom he dedicated his Christian Hero, had obtained for him a captain's commission in lord Lucas's regiment of fusileers, and also appointed him his own secretary. Being introduced, by Mr. Addison, to the earls of Halifax and Sunderland, their interest obtained him the office of Gazette writer.

In 1703, his Tender Husband was performed; and, in 1704, his Lying Lovers. It was not till April 12, 1709, that he laid the foundation of those series of periodical essays, which have obtained the name of British Classics, by commencing his celebrated paper, the Tatler; the last number of which appeared January 2, 1711. This greatly increased his reputation; and he was, soon after its commencement, made one of the commissioners of the stamp-office. He now began, in conjunction with Addison, that incomparable work, the Spectator, which was succeeded by the scarcely less celebrated Gnardian.

In June 1713, having previously resigned his place as commissioner of the stamp-office, he was returned to parliament for Stockbridge, in Hampshire. In the year following, however, he was expelled the house, for having written some political essays. He now wrote an Apology for himself and his writings, which he dedicated to Robert Walpole, esq. and, the next year, published a treatise, which he called, the Romish Ecclesiastical History of late Years.

Shortly after the accession of George I. he was made surveyor of the royal stables at Hampton-court, governor of the royal company of comedians, and a magistrate for the county of Middlesex; and, in 1715, he received the honour of knighthood.

Steele, who was a great projector, published an account of his fish-pool; for which he had obtained a patent, in 1718, on an unadvised plan for bringing fish alive to market: two years after the total failure of this expensive undertaking, he wrote two pieces against the South Sea scheme!

It was probably through some offence, in the writings he was perpetually publishing, that he was deprived, in 1720, of his dramatic patent. In 1722, however, his Conscious Lovers being performed with great success, and dedicated to the king, he received a present of 500*l*. For some years before his death, he grew paralytic; and, retiring to his seat, at Llangunnor, near Caermarthen, in Wales, died there, September 1, 1729. He was privately interred, according to his own particular request.

With his first wife, a native of Barbadoes, he had, on the death of her brother, a valuable plantation. By his second, daughter of Jonathan Scurlock, esq. he had a daughter and two sons: both the latter died young; but their daughter, Elizabeth, was married, in 1732, to the honourable John Trevor, afterwards baron Trevor, of Bromham.

Of Sir Richard Steele, as a writer, it is sufficient to say, that he was worthy of being the colleague of Addison. His dramatic pieces possess very superior merit.

DEAN SWIFT.

THE famous Dr. JONATHAN SWIFT, Dean of St. Patrick's, Dublin, stands high on the list of eminent English writers. The time in which he lived may be considered as the literary age of Great Britain. He was born in Dublin, on St. Andrew's day 1667, and died there, October 29, 1745. Though he received his birth in Ireland, both parents were natives of England. His grandfather, the Reverend Thomas Swift, vicar of Goodrich, in Herefordshire, married Mrs. Elizabeth Dryden, aunt of Dryden the poet, by whom he had six sons, the fifth of which was Swift's father, Jonathan, an attorney at Dublin; who died in March 1667, leaving his pregnant widow, a native of Leicester, related by marriage to Sir William Temple, with an infant daughter, to subsist on twenty pounds a year. In this distressed state, her husband's eldest brother, Godwin Swift, attorney-general in the palatinate of Tipperary, humanely took the mother into his family; where she was delivered of this celebrated son, whom she named after his father. At the age of six, his uncle sent him to Kilkenny school, where he remained eight years, and then became a student of Trinity college, Dublin. On the decease of his uncle, in 1688, he came to England; and was advised by his mother to visit Sir William Temple. That great and learned statesman immediately received him under his protection, and laid the foundation of his future fortune.

Swift took his degree of master of arts at Oxford, in 1692; and, in 1694, entered into holy orders. To detail his political connections, his literary correspondences, his travels from England to Ireland, from Ireland to England, with the peculiar habits of his life, and his domestic arrangements, would require a volume of considerable bulk.

His moral and political romance, the well-known Gulliver's Travels, is one of the choicest productions in any language. It has, with a common reader, all the fascinations of a most delectable romance; and, to the piercing eye of the philosopher and politician, it presents, at the same time, a most incomparable picture of humiliated nature. The Tale of the Tub has a similar effect respecting matters of religion; where his Peter, Jack, and Martin, are nothing less than Papists, Protestants, and Presbyterians or Puritans. The rest of his numerous works are, chiefly, a History of the Four last Years of Queen Anne; Letters; Poems; Sermons; Essays; and Political Tracts.

To characterise writings so multifarious, under one general description, is impossible. It may be said, however, that his chief excellence lay in wit, humour, and satire. But it is to be lamented that, in his pursuits after Nature, he was fond of dragging the unhappy female from her most retired privacies, and exposing her in such unseemly situations, as must excite disgust, instead of the admiration which she has ever been accustomed to receive, and which, with all her infirmities, she is still entitled to expect. With regard to his poetry, though it is never sublime, the diction is always smooth and respectable. The stile of his prose deserves to be particularly mentioned; as easy, unaffected, and correct. The student who would form a good stile, has been told to "give his days and his nights to Addison;" we would advise him, at least, to spare a few hours for Swift.

This truly eccentric character, as if he had some presentiment of the calamity that was to befal him, bequeathed 11,000*l.* the bulk of his fortune, to found an hospital, in Dublin, for idiots and lunatics. What a melancholy consideration it is, that his own large portion of intellect was exhausted for some years before the vital spark became completely extinguished!

PITT.

The honourable WILLIAM PITT, second son of the great earl of Chatham, and a statesman of little less celebrity than even that incomparable British minister, was born, May 28, 1759, at Hayes, in Middlesex. He was educated, at home, under the immediate eye of his father, who indefatigably cultivated the manifest abilities of this favourite son. At the age of fourteen, fully qualified for the university, he was sent to Cambridge; where, being intended for the bar as well as the senate, he soon acquired the requisite fundamental knowledge. He then visited the continent, and remained a short time at Rheims. In 1778, he lost his father; and, on coming of age, was called to the bar: but, in 1781, by the influence of sir James Lowther, he obtained a seat in parliament for Appleby. His first speech was in support of Mr. Burke's bill for retrenchments of the civil list, February 26, 1781; when whatever might be expected, from a son tutored by his matchless father to speak with ease, elegance, and force, and to argue with logical precision from a copious fountain of political knowledge, was not only gratified, but surpassed, in the general opinion of the house, on hearing the youthful orator. His first motion was, for the more equal representation of the people in parliament; which, though unsuccessful, rendered him very popular. On the death of the marquis of Rockingham, the earl of Shelburne becoming first lord of the treasury, he was made chancellor of the exchequer. The peace proving unpopular, they were succeeded by the coalition; but Pitt, ably exposing the vast mass of patronage which Fox's East India bill was calculated to create, with all its unjust and dangerous tendencies, to the crown, the company, and the people, now became first lord of the treasury and chancellor of the exchequer, Dec. 18, 1783. His bill for the regulation of India affairs being rejected, he appealed to a new parliament; and, finding he had the confidence of his country, in the immediate approbation of this bill, he provided for the reduction of the national debt by a sinking fund, and concluded a commercial treaty with France. On the king's illness, in 1788, he denied any constitutional right of the heir apparent to the regency; for which Fox had, with more zeal than discretion, ventured to contend.

At the commencement of the French revolution, Pitt was reluctant to interfere; till, on the murder of their king, January 21, 1793, the ambitious projects of the regicide rulers of France evidently menacing the universal subjugation of mankind, under pretence of a general philosophic fraternity of the whole of the human race, their ambassador was dismissed, and war immediately ensued. His skill in finding resources for a warfare of eight years, extensive and expensive beyond all precedent, must ever be regarded as a proof of his unrivalled financial ability. The history of Pitt, during this period, enters largely into that of nearly the whole civilized world. In 1800, he effected the union with Ireland; and, soon after, retired from office: partly respecting catholic emancipation; but more particularly to negociate the peace of Amiens, through a new minister. The peace obtained by Mr. Addington was soon at a end; and, in 1804, Pitt resumed the reins of government. He now formed that important confederacy with Russia and Austria, which so fairly promised to crush the colossal power of France. The battle of Austerlitz, fatal to the immediate success of his favourite plan for the deliverance of Europe from the thraldom of the French, contributed much, with other untoward circumstances, to hasten his end. In December 1805, he went ill to Bath; but, obtaining no substantial relief, returned to his seat at Putney, on the 11th of January 1806; and died there the 23d, throwing himself, literally, on the mercy of God, and exclaiming—"Oh, my country!" His remains were deposited in Westminster Abbey, at the public expense; and 40,000*l.* were granted by parliament for the discharge of debts contracted in his country's service. Monuments to his memory have been erected in Westminster Abbey, in Guildhall, and other parts of the united kingdom.

FOX.

The honourable CHARLES JAMES FOX, one of the most popular orators and statesmen of modern times, was second son of the first lord Holland, and born, January 13, 1749. His natural genius, and strong powers of mind, were early perceived, and judiciously encouraged, by his able and indulgent father; who carefully instructed him to think freely, and to speak with promptness and energy. From Westminster school, he went to Eton; where he distinguished himself by the elegance of his Latin verses, preserved in the Musæ Etonenses. After studying at Oxford, he made the tour of Europe; and returned a fashionable youth, as remarkable for foppish gaiety of dress and manners, as he soon became, and continued through life, for the direct contrary.

In 1768, though not of age, he was placed in parliament for Midhurst; and his first speech was against Wilkes and the Middlesex election. At this period, our future champion of the people delivered his opinion, "that the voice of the people was only to be heard in the house of commons." Two years afterwards, he was made a lord of the admiralty: but, in May 1772, resigned; and, in January 1773, became a lord of the treasury, from which situation he very unexpectedly received his dismission, February 19, 1774. Throughout the American contest, he now took a distinguished lead among the opposition speakers, though then including such orators as Burke, Barré, and Dunning.

At the general election in 1780, he was, as the favourite man of the people, returned for Westminster; and in 1782, when lord North was succeeded by the marquis of Rockingham, became secretary of state. The sudden death of the marquis proved the dissolution of the new ministry: but Fox, after some time opposing the measures of lord Shelburne, returned to power, by his famous coalition with lord North; with whom, he had often declared, "that he would not trust himself in the same room, but would employ all his powers to bring him to the scaffold for the flagitiousness of his public life!" Such a conjunction was likely to be closely watched; and Fox's memorable India bill afforded Pitt an opportunity of overthrowing the coalition government. On the new election, however, notwithstanding Pitt obtained a decided majority, Fox appeared at the head of an opposition of more brilliant talents than had ever been known in the house.

In 1788, accompanied by a lady afterwards acknowledged as his wife, he visited the continent, chiefly with a view to his intended history of England; but was suddenly called home, in consequence of the king's illness. On this occasion, he had the misfortune to combat constitutional principles, by hastily insisting on the right of the heir apparent to become regent, without any restrictions. In 1790, still as the friend of liberty, he rendered juries, by his celebrated libel bill, judges of law as well as fact.

The French revolution Fox regarded as pregnant with universal freedom; but, finding his systematic opposition considered as disloyal, formed the resolution of seceding from senatorial attendance. His addresses at public meetings were now judged so unwarrantable, that his name was struck off from the list of privy counsellors.

In 1803, he returned to his parliamentary duty; and, on the death of Pitt, in 1806, was appointed, by the advice of lord Grenville, secretary of state for foreign affairs. Having now an opportunity of experiencing the perfidy of the French government, he felt forcibly the error of his former opinions. In the mean time, his health rapidly declined; the dropsy overwhelmed him; and, after thrice undergoing the painful operation of tapping within five weeks, he died at Chiswick-house, September 13, 1806.

His remains were honoured by a public funeral in Westminster Abbey; and deposited close to those of Pitt, his great political rival.

COWPER.

The life of WILLIAM COWPER, one of our greatest modern poets, presents a most afflicting picture of the human mind. He was born, November 26, 1731, at Berkhamstead, in Hertfordshire; where his father, Dr. John Cowper, a nephew of lord chancellor Cowper, and chaplain to George II. was rector. Having lost his mother in 1737, he was sent to school at Market Street; till a malady in his eyes occasioned him to be two years with a female occulist. At the age of fourteen, the small-pox removed the complaint, but left him always subject to occasional inflammation. He now went to Westminster school; and from thence, in 1749, to Mr. Chapman, a solicitor, in Southampton-row. After three years "giggling, and making giggle," as he expresses it, "with the future lord-chancellor Thurlow, instead of studying the law," he entered of the Inner Temple; and now cultivating the acquaintance of Churchill, Lloyd, Thornton, and Colman, who had all been his school-fellows at Westminster, made little professional progress. Though he wrote three papers for the Connoisseur, it is not known that he had ever produced any poetry: except his first effort, at fourteen, an elegy translated from Tibullus; and, at eighteen, his beautiful verses "on finding the heel of a shoe."

In 1762, he was nominated reading clerk in the house of lords; but his dread of reading in public was so great, that he declined the situation. He was then appointed clerk of the journals; but, a parliamentary dispute rendering his presence necessary at the bar of the house, his terrors rose to such a height as utterly overwhelmed his reason: and, in the care of Dr. Cotton, at St. Alban's, he remained from December 1763 to July 1764. His insanity was a religious despondence, under constant dread of immediate death; and his mind first obtained serenity by perusing the third chapter of St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans.

He now resolved on a life of retirement; and, accordingly, settled at Huntingdon. Here, in 1766, he went to reside with the reverend Mr. Unwin; who, in July 1767, was killed by a fall from his horse. Soon after, the family removing to Olney, in Buckinghamshire, he became so intimate with Mr. Newton, the curate, that they were, for many years, "seldom separate seven hours at a time, when awake and at home." Sixty-eight beautiful hymns, in the Olney collection, published by Mr. Newton, were written by Cowper, before he was known as a poet. From 1773, to 1778, he was again in a state of insanity; but, on recovering, seemed miraculously gifted with a new and rich fund of diversified genius and ability!

In 1782, his first volume of poems was published; with a preface by Mr. Newton, then rector of St. Mary Woolnoth, Lombard-street. It was not, however, till the appearance of the second volume, in 1785, that his fame, as a poet of the first class, became universally established. His principal poem, the Task, and even his incomparable humorous story of John Gilpin, had both originated in conversations with lady Austen.

His translation of Homer, in blank verse, which occupied about five years, was published in 1791. He afterwards commenced what may be considered as a new translation: but, in April 1794, relapsed into his worst state of mental derangement, was insensible to the king's having just granted him a pension of 300*l.* a year. During the few subsequent intervals of health, from 1797 to 1799, he completed his revisal of the Odyssey. In a letter to lady Hesketh, October 13, 1798, he describes himself as one to whom nature "in one day, in one minute, became a universal blank." At Dereham, in Norfolk, he exhibited all the symptoms of dropsy; and, April 25, 1800, expired so quietly, that none of his friends present perceived the exact moment of his departure.

He was buried in St. Edmund's chapel, Dereham church; where lady Hesketh caused a marble tablet to be erected, on which is an elegant inscription written by Mr. Hayley.

HUME.

DAVID HUME, our celebrated historian, was born at Edinburgh, April 26, 1711. His family, though nobly allied, was not rich, and he was a younger brother; but, a philosopher from his earliest age, he seemed to have no other desire than to prosecute his studies with ardour. In 1734, he attempted to settle at Bristol; but soon found that scene totally unsuitable to his dispositions. He then passed three years of rural retirement in France, on a plan of very rigid frugality: first, at Rheims; but, chiefly, at la Flêche, in Anjou, where he composed his Treatise of Human Nature. In 1737, he came to London; and, the year following, published this work, which he had meditated even while at the university with much expectation of success: but, to use his own emphatic expression, "it fell dead-born from the press."

He was cheerful, though disappointed. In 1742, the first part of his Essays was better received. His talents obtained him friends; and, in 1745, he was engaged by the marquis of Anandale, whose state of mind required an intelligent attendant. He afterwards, in 1746, became secretary to general St. Clair; whom he attended in an expedition on the coast of France; as well as on his military embassy, in 1747, to the courts of Vienna and Turin. He now conceived himself independent, as he says in his own life, being "master of near a thousand pounds."

In 1751, he published his Political Discourses, which was his only work that succeeded on the first publication. Three years afterwards, he gave two volumes of his History of England. But such was it's reception, that he seems, for once, to have lost his philosophy; and, had it not been for the war, proposed "to change his name, and never more to have returned to his native country." He, however, renewed his intrepidity; and, having completed his History, it obtained a very high degree of celebrity.

In 1763, he was invited by the earl of Hertford, to accompany him as secretary on his embassy to Paris; and, in the summer of 1765, was left there chargé d'affaires. In 1766, he quitted France; where his fashionable philosophical opinions had obtained him the panegyrics of the literati, the nobility, the ladies, and even princes of the blood: and, soon after his return to Scotland, he was appointed under secretary of state to general Conway. His fortune had now been so much augmented, that when he returned to Edinburgh, in 1769, he possessed an income of 1000*l.* per annum. Surrounded by literary friends, he passed his latter years in the calm enjoyments of philosophy, and the delightful contemplation of a reputation gradually increasing. He asserts, in the account of his own life, that his friends never had occasion to vindicate any one circumstance of his character and conduct: "not," adds he, "but that the zealots, we may well suppose, would have been glad to invent and propagate any story to my disadvantage, but they could never find any which they thought would wear the face of probability." He was attacked, in the spring of 1775, by a disorder in his bowels; which gave him so little alarm, that he tells us, only four months prior to its proving mortal, "notwithstanding the great decline of his person, he had never suffered a moment's abatement of his spirits; that he possessed the same ardour as ever in his study, and the same gaiety in company; insomuch that, were he to name a period of his life which he should most choose to pass over again, he might be tempted to point to this latter period." He died, at Edinburgh, August 25, 1776.

Hume, in his metaphysical essays, has veiled, by a polished diction, the most pernicious sentiments. He is accused by many of an unreasonable scepticism. His History of England is better known than his philosophical writings. It displays, in general, every charm of elaborate composition, and an acuteness which captivates the reader; but it is not entitled to unqualified praise as a faithful and an impartial narrative.

CERVANTES.

The renowned MIGUEL CERVANTES DE SAAVEDRA, known more generally by the single name Cervantes, was born in 1547, at Alcala de Henares, in New Castille. His parents, perceiving his inclination for learning, would have bred him to the church or to physic: but, at an early age, he quitted Spain, and travelled into Italy; where, urged by his necessities, he became valet to Cardinal Aquaviva. Disgusted with a situation so little suited to his genius, he enlisted under the banners of Marco Antonio Colonna; and signalized himself at the famous battle of Lepanto, in 1571, where he lost bis left hand. Having served three years under tbe conquering banners of Colonna, he sighed for his native country. But the voyage proved unfortunate; for the Sun galley, in which he was going from Naples to Spain, September 26, 1575, being taken by an Algerine, he was carried into slavery. He at length projected a plan to emancipate himself and thirteen of his unfortunate fellow-sufferers: one of whom treacherously betraying tbe design, they were conveyed to the sovereign of Algiers; who promised them tbeir lives, provided they would discover the contriver of the plot. "It was me," said Cervantes; "save my companions, and let me perish!" The dey, admiring his magnanimity, spared his life, but still suffered him to remain in bondage. After five years and a half, his family having collected the price of his ransom, he returned to Spain.

In tbe spring of 1581, he fixed his residence at Madrid. The first produce of his genius was the romance of Galatea, in 1584; and December 12, the same year, he married, at Esquivias, Donna Catalina de Salaza y Palacios. He also wrote several comedies and interludes, which were performed with very great success. At length, he went to reside at Seville; where, in 1596, he wrote a satyrical sonnet on the duke of Medina's triumphal entry into Cadiz, after the earl of Essex had plundered and left the place. From about this period, he appears to have fallen into some great difficulties: as he is known to have been long in prison, when he wrote the first part of his Don Quixote; which was published at Madrid in 1605, and discovered the full force of his genius. This work, translated into all languages, is still the first comic romance in the world. A continuation being produced by a writer named Avellaneda, Cervantes wrote the second part, and completed his plan; the publication of which is said to have been suspended by the duke of Lerma, prime-minister to Philip III. who felt the keenness of this exquisite satire on tbe absurd passion for chivalry.

The genius of Cervantes, though it procured him a few occasionally generous patrons, prevented not his living in a state of indigence, till near the close of life. In 1606, having obtained his liberty, he returned to Madrid; and in 1610, the Conde de Lemos, viceroy of Naples, his chief friend, and the count's kinsman, the cardinal archbishop of Toledo, kindly enabled him to bear with less inconvenience the troubles of old age. He now passed much of his time in retirement at Esquivias, hastening the completion of his entire works. Accordingly, he printed his Novels, in 1613; his Journey to Parnassus, in 1614; his Comedies and Interludes, in 1615; and, at length, in this last year, the delayed second part of his Don Quixote. He finished, also, his Persilas and Sigismunda, which was not published till after his decease. In the mean time, the victim of an incurable dropsy, he beheld, witb Christian fortitude and a cheerful countenance, tbe slow but sure approach of deatb; which came, at length, still sooner than he expected, April 23, 1616; being the same nominal day as deprived England also of its alike greatest genius, Shakspeare. He was buried in the church of the Trinitarian nuns, at Madrid.

LORD BACON.

FRANCIS, lord Verulam, and Viscount St. Alban's, commonly called LORD BACON, one of our earliest and greatest philosophers, was son of sir Nicholas Bacon, lord-keeper of the great seal; and born at York house, in the Strand, on the 22d of January 1561. His mother, second daughter of sir Anthony Cooke, was eminently distinguished for piety and learning. While an infant, he was noticed by Queen Elizabeth, for the readiness of his wit; and she frequently called him her young lord-keeper. At twelve years of age, he went to Trinity college, Cambridge; and such was his incredible progress in science, that he had, at sixteen, not only become a complete master of the whole circle of liberal arts, as then taught, but began to perceive those imperfections in the reigning philosophy, which he afterwards so effectually exposed.

On quitting the university, his father sent him to France; where, before he was nineteen, he wrote a general view of the state of Europe: but, sir Nicholas dying, he returned to England, and studied the common-law in Gray's Inn. Here he was patronized by the earl of Essex; whose death it was afterwards his official duty to palliate, which has drawn on him the reproach of ingratitude. In 1605, he published the first specimen of his great work, the Advancement of Learning; and, about this period, married Alice, daughter of Benedict Barham, esq. alderman of London, with an ample fortune, but never had any offspring. At the accession of James I. he wrote in favour of the union of England and Scotland; and, in 1616, was sworn of the privy council. The next year, he was appointed keeper of the great seal; and, the year following, chancellor of England, with the title of lord Verulam. In the midst of these honours, and notwithstanding his multiplicity of business, he neither forgot nor neglected his philosophical studies; but published, in 1620, his Novum Organum Scientiarum.

Such had been his extreme anxiety for the perfection of this great work, presenting an infallible method of exercising the faculty of reason, that he is said to have actually revised and altered twelve copies, before he brought it to the state in which it at length appeared. Having sent it to the king, he received a letter from his majesty which reflects much honour on both their memories.

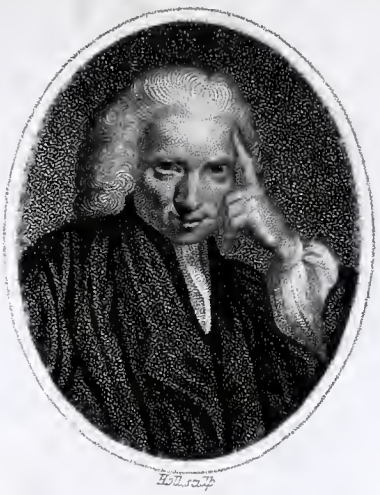
Being accused of bribery and corruption, the king prevailed on him to make no defence; and he was, May 3, 1621, fined 40,000*l.* and sentenced to be imprisoned during his majesty's pleasure. The gifts were chiefly to his servants; and, during his trial, on their rising from their seats, as he passed them—"sit down, my masters," said his lordship, "your rise has been my fall."

He retired, after a short confinement in the Tower, to the shade of a contemplative life, which he had always loved. The king also remitted his fine; and, in the first year of Charles I. he was again summoned to parliament.

His last five years were wholly devoted to philosophical studies. On an excursion to try some experiments in natural philosophy, he was obliged to stop at the earl of Arundel's, Highgate; and there, in a few days, April 9, 1626, this great man expired. He was buried in the chapel of St. Michael's church, St. Alban's; where a monument was erected to his memory, by his indefatigable secretary, sir Thomas Meautys.

Addison says, that Bacon had the sound, distinct, comprehensive knowledge of Aristotle, with all the beautiful light graces of Cicero: and lord Orford, who calls him the prophet of arts which Newton was afterwards to reveal, pronounces that his genius and his works must be universally admired as long as science exists.

His numerous works were, in 1765, first collected in five vols. 4to. and since in ten, 8vo.



STERNE.

This eccentric genius, LAWRENCE, son of Roger STERNE, a lieutenant in the army, was born, November 24, 1713, at Clonmell in Ireland. He came to England, with his parents, very young; and went to Elvington, near York, where his father's mother resided: hut, in less than a year, they returned to Ireland; and continued moving, with the regiment, till he was placed at a school near Halifax, in Yorkshire. While there, in 1731, he lost his father; but found a parent in his uncle, Dr. Sterne, prebendary of York, who sent him to the university of Camhridge. It was through the interest of this uncle, that he obtained the living of Sutton, in Yorkshire, and also became a prebendary of York. With his patron, however, he at length quarrelled, hecause he wanted him to be a party writer.

He had married, in 1741; and, having ohtained the living of Stillington, by means of his wife, now passed his time in performing the duties of hoth parishes, and amusing himself with hooks, painting, fiddling, and shooting!

We know not of any of his literary efforts, till 1759; when he visited London, purposely to publish the two first volumes of Tristram Shandy, which immediately became popular. His residence, for above twenty years, had been chiefly at Sutton; but, in 1760, he took a house at York. He was also, this year, presented, by lord Falconbridge, to the curacy of Coxwold. The succeeding seven volumes of this singular romance were not less favourably received; and he was universally recognized as a genuine disciple of Rabelais: equally whimsical, equally facetious; and, it is to be regretted, equally incomprehensihle, and equally indelicate.

In 1762, the victim of a pulmonary complaint, too frequently the attendant of excessive vivacity in a delicate constitution, he travelled through France; and received, from the most distinguished characters, every mark of admiration and respect. At Toulouse he proposed residing, with his family, for the recovery of his health. He rambled, however, to Montpellier; from thence to Paris; and, in 1764, returned to England.

In 1765, he sought the balsamic air of Italy, to invigorate his debilitated frame. On his return, he gave the world the fruits of his peregrinations, in what he has whimsically denominated, Yorick's Sentimental Journey through France and Italy. His Sermons, though excellent as well as elegant moral discourses, partake of the characteristic oddity of this singular genius, and were published under his assumed name of Yorick. But while his literary reputation daily increased, his health was now rapidly declining; and he died in London, March 18, 1768. He was buried in the new ground belonging to the parish of St. George, Hanover square; and it has been asserted, that his corpse actually became a prey to the surgeons. The following lines were written hy his friend, Garrick, on the want of a grave stone to mark the spot of his interment.

"Shall pride a heap of sculptured marble raise,
Some worthless, unmourned, titled fool, to praise;
And shall we not, by one poor grave stone learn,
Where genius, wit, and humour, sleep with Sterne?"

Yorick's letters to Eliza were published after his decease, by his daughter, Mrs. Medalle.

The writings of Sterne are replete with the warmest sentiments of philanthropy; and their originality is of the most entertaining kind. But it must be confessed, that they are productive of pernicious effects; and are "sullied," to use the expression of Mr. Knox, "by many faults and many follies."

RACINE.

THIS great French dramatic poet was born at la Ferté Milon, on the 21st of December 1639. He was the eldest child of respectable parents, whom he can scarcely be said ever to have known: his mother dying in January 1641; his father, in February 1643; and his maternal uncle, Peter Sconin, who had proved a parent to him and his infant sister, in 1650. Thus, at the tender age of eleven years, he became, as it were, without any relations in the world. He had, however, still an uncle and aunts retired from the world, and devoted to a religious life at Port Royal; where he received the substantial part of his education, and often wandered, with Sophocles or Euripides in his hand, till he lost himself in the adjacent woods.

Though Racine had early written many little pieces, it was not till 1660, on the marriage of Louis XIV. that he appeared before the public as a poet, by his celebrated Ode on that occasion. This poem obtained him, from the king, a present of a hundred pistoles, and a pension of six hundred livres for life. Thus encouraged, he resolved to cultivate poetry; and, though he still wore the clerical habit, he produced, in 1664, his tragedy of la Thébaide; or, les Frères Ennemis. In this first dramatic production he had aimed at imitating Corneille; but, born to be himself a model, he soon quitted that manner. Two years afterwards, his Alexandre charmed all Paris. In 1668, his famous Andromaque was performed; and the exertions of Montfleuri, in the character of Orestes, cost that celebrated actor his life. Racine's excellent comedy, les Plaideurs, was produced the same year. In 1670, appeared his Britannicus; in 1672, Bajazet; in 1673, Mithridate; in 1675, Iphigenie; in 1677, Phedre. This last piece meeting with illiberal treatment, Racine determined to abandon the theatre; and, at first, formed a design to embrace the austerities of the Carthusian brethren: but his spiritual director prudently advising him to marry, and settle in the world, he was soon united to the daughter of a treasurer of France. Racine had been named with Boileau to be the historian of the king; but, after labouring together some time, they agreed that the history of such a sovereign could not be with propriety written till a hundred years posterior to his decease.

Religion, which had drawn Racine from poetry, now restored him to it. At the instigation of Madame de Maintenon, he wrote several tragedies from the Sacred Writings, for her young ladies to perform at the convent of St. Cyr, and they were afterwards acted at Versailles. Racine owed his death to a singular cause. He had lent Madame de Maintenon a manuscript memorial, on the miseries of the people, and the best means of relieving them; which the king happening to find her reading, angrily said—"Because Racine is a poet would he also be a statesman!" This reaching the poet, the shock to his sensibility occasioned a violent fever; which, having been injudiciously treated, terminated in an abscess: the abscess, through like want of skill, while apparently cured, left a pain on his right side, which long occasionally tormented him. At length, the doctors perceived, too late, that his malady was occasioned by an abscess on the liver; and though they could discover no secret in their art to mitigate his anguish, they readily enough found means to augment it, by advising an operation equally cruel and useless. To this he patiently but hopelessly submitted; and died, the fourth day after, with the fortitude and piety, as well as the sufferings, of a martyr, April 22, 1699. He was interred, pursuant to his will, at Port Royal; and, on the destruction of that monastery in 1708, his remains were conveyed to St. Stephen du Mont, at Paris.

Boileau says, "Racine revived Sophocles, surpassed Euripides, and equalled Corneille."

PENN.

WILLIAM PENN, the celebrated founder of Pennsylvania, son of admiral sir William Penn, was born on Tower-hill, October 14, 1644. About the age of fifteen, he became a student of Christ-church, Oxford; but, having early imbibed strong religious impressions, through the preaching of Thomas Loe, one of the people called quakers, he was, in 1661, fined for non-conformity, and next year expelled for destroying surplices. On returning home, he was chastised, and turned out of doors: but, soon after, sent to Paris; where, being one evening attacked, he drew his sword, and dextrously disarmed his assailant. He next studied the law as a member of Lincoln's Inn, till the raging of the plague in 1665. The year following, sent to manage a family estate in Ireland, he heard Loe preach at Cork, immediately became a decided adherent, and was imprisoned by the mayor; though soon released, on application to the earl of Orrery: called home by his father, and refusing a promise to appear uncovered, at least, before the king and the duke of York, he was again turned out.

In 1668, beginning both to preach and to write as a quaker, his second tract occasioned him an imprisonment of seven months in the Tower. He there commenced his chief work, best known by the title of No Cross, no Crown. On his release, he again went to Ireland; and now kindly treated by his father, preached to, and obtained relief for, all his persecuted brethren. Himself, however, coming to London, and preaching in Gracechurch-street, was committed to Newgate, under the conventicle act; and even the jury were fined for returning a verdict of "not guilty." Nor was he liberated, till the fines for contempt of court, in his bold and vigorous defence, at the Old Bailey, on the trial of himself and William Mead, September 1, 3, 4, and 5, 1670, were secretly paid by his father; who died the 16th of the same month, leaving him an estate of 1500*l.* per annum. In 1672, he married a respectable lady, of his own religious sentiments, with whom he settled at Rickmansworth: and, in 1677, went on a religious mission, with Fox and Barclay, throughout Holland, and great part of Germany. After his return, in 1680, he obtained from Charles II. a province in North America, which the king named Pennsylvania. Penn immediately published a description of the country, and its produce, offering easy terms to settlers; who, being allowed to enjoy more religious liberty than any where else existed in the Christian world, a numerous colony, chiefly of quakers, was soon congregated. In 1682, he visited his new territory, convoked his first provincial assembly, conciliated the Indians by kindness, and for two years witnessed as well as promoted the prosperity of the colonists. On the death of Charles II. the great friendship of James II. for his father now affording him the freest possible access at court, he was absurdly charged with being a papist and jesuit. Accordingly, after the revolution, so favourable to general freedom, he was, under suspicion of corresponding with the abdicated sovereign, long cruelly harrassed. In 1694, he lost his wife, which affected him more than all his other troubles. However, in 1696, he again married; and soon after lost his eldest son, a pious young man just coming of age. At the accession of queen Anne, though again welcomed at court, his difficulties were not at an end: on the contrary, animosities arose in his government; vast expenses were incurred; no returns could be obtained; and he was, by a litigation with the executors of his deceased steward, compelled to reside within the rules of the Fleet prison, in 1707 and 1708; and, finally, to mortgage his province. In 1710, with impaired health, as well as suffering under untoward circumstances, he settled at Rushcomb, Berks: where, in 1712, he had, at different periods, three fits, judged to be apoplectic; and died, July 30, 1718.

CAPTAIN COOK.

THE obscure village of Marton, in Yorkshire, gave birth to this famous circumnavigator, JAMES COOK, October 27, 1728. His father was a common husbandman; and his education nothing more than reading, writing, and the first rules of arithmetic. At thirteen, he went apprentice to a shopkeeper; but, obtaining his discharge, bound himself for three years to a Whitby vessel employed in the coal trade. He was afterwards a seaman in the transport service, the Baltic trade, &c. and, having always shewn a genius for figures, made considerable progress in the study as well as practice of navigation.

In 1755, when hostilities commenced with France, the dread of being pressed, induced him voluntarily to enter on board a sixty-gun ship, commanded by sir Hugh Palliser; where his diligence and ability soon attracted the notice of this excellent officer: and, in 1759, sir Hugh pronouncing him qualified, he was appointed master of the Mercury, and joined the fleet under sir Charles Saunders, at the memorable siege of Quebec. On this occasion, though he had scarcely ever before used a pencil, he contrived, partly in the face of the enemy, to make a chart of the channel and soundings of the river St. Lawrence, which is esteemed so accurate, that no better has ever been published.

He had, April 1, 1760, received a lieutenant's commission; and, December 21, 1762, he married miss Elizabeth Batts, of Barking, in Essex; to whom, it is said, he was godfather, and had at the christening determined she should be his wife. A singular trait, if true, of his characteristic patient perseverance! From 1763 to 1767, he was chiefly employed, by government, as marine surveyor of Newfoundland and Labradore; where he made such progress in science, that his ingenious observation of an eclipse of the sun, at Newfoundland, August 5, 1766, communicated to the Royal Society, was printed in the Philosophical Transactions. In the mean time, he had, in 1765, on the Jamaica station, with Admiral sir William Burnaby, been sent from the river Balize, in the bay of Honduras, to Merida, capital of the province of Yucatan, in the Spanish West Indies, with important dispatches relative to the Honduras logwood cutters; an account of which was, four years afterwards, published by himself, in a small pamphlet.

On the 25th May 1768, he was promoted to be a post captain; and, July 30, sailed on his first great national voyage of discovery, with sir Joseph Banks and Dr. Solander, under the patronage of the king, to make observations, in a southern latitude, on the transit of Venus over the Sun, and to explore the Pacific Ocean. How ably he fulfilled this commission, is known to all the world; and such was his majesty's approbation, that in April 1772, he was engaged to make his second celebrated voyage, for the purpose of completing the discovery of the southern hemisphere, with Capt. Furneaux. The object of his third, and unfortunately his last voyage, was to determine the practicability of a northern passage to the Pacific Ocean, accompanied by Capt. Clerke: when sufficient evidence appeared, to demonstrate that no such passage exists; and the western boundaries of the great continent of America were completely ascertained. On his return, however, in a sudden affray with the natives, at Owhyee, one of the Sandwich islands, Capt. Cook was killed, February 14, 1779. Thus perished, this able man; whose vigorous mind, and undaunted resolution, had conducted him through innumerable enterprizes of the most imminent danger, and whose distinguished services can never cease to be remembered by a grateful and a generous nation.

Captain Cook was survived by his wife, and several children: on the former, the king settled a pension of 200*l.* and on the latter 25*l.* each, per annum.

DRYDEN.

JOHN DRYDEN, universally esteemed one of our chief poets, was born on the 9th of August 1631, at Aldwincle, in Northamptonshire. His father, Erasmus, was third son of sir Erasmus Dryden, bart. of Canons Ashby, in the same county. He was brought up at Westminster, under the celebrated Dr. Busby; and, in 1650, became a student of Trinity college, Cambridge. He had, at school, distinguished himself by some promising verses; and, on the death of Cromwell, in 1658, he ventured to publish his Heroic Stanzas on the occasion. Two years afterwards he celebrated the happy Restoration of Charles II. This was changing sides, it is true; but the poet's inconstancy was sanctioned by that of the nation. In 1663, he commenced dramatic writer; and kept possession of the stage for many years. The number of his plays is twenty-seven, of which few are ever performed. It is not, in these productions, that we must look for the genius of Dryden. Yet, from the multifarious mass may the patient refiner extract much of the most precious metal. His prefaces comprehend a fine system of dramatic criticism.

Absalom and Achitophel, which appeared in 1681, has been esteemed the best political satire ever written. In 1682, he produced his Religio Laici; a curious poem, against deists, papists, and presbyterians. On the death of Charles II. to whom he had been appointed poet-laureat, he wrote his Threnodia Augustalis; and, to the astonishment of every body, at the accession of James II. turned Roman catholic. Some apology was necessary; and, in 1687, he published his Hind and Panther, which represents the Romish church as the pure, and the church of England as the spotted animal. At the Revolution, in 1688, he was accordingly dismissed from the laureatship; but the earl of Dorset, greatly to his honour, continued to pay him the usual pension.

There are, perhaps, few great poets wholly untinctured with what is called superstition; Dryden, in particular, is well known to have believed even in judicial astrology, and to have cast the nativities of his children. All this, by the philosopher, is deemed imbecility of mind; yet the faculties of Dryden by no means appeared wanting in vigour. He produced, at the age of sixty-six, his celebrated translation of Virgil; which was followed, the next year, by what are denominated his Fables, including that charming Ode for St. Cecilia's Day, "which has always been considered," says Dr. Johnson, "as exhibiting the highest flight of fancy, and the exactest nicety of art."

In March and April 1700, he was confined by a fit of the gout, with which disease, as well as the gravel, he had for years been occasionally tormented; and, near the close of the latter month, having neglected an inflammation caused by the growing of his toe nail under the flesh, a mortification took place, for which immediate amputation of the limb was recommended. He observed, however, that as he had, by the course of nature, few years to live, he would not attempt to prolong an uncomfortable existence by a painful and uncertain experiment, but patiently submit to death; which he did, with an astonishing and pious composure, Wednesday morning, May 1, 1700. He was interred in Westminster-abbey; where a monument was erected over his remains, by Sheffield, duke of Buckingham. He was survived by his widow, lady Elizabeth Howard, daughter of the earl of Berkshire: as well as by their three sons; Charles, John, and Erasmus Henry. The latter succeeded to the title of baronet, on the death of sir John Dryden.

Congreve, who knew Dryden well, represents his moral character as in all respects not only blameless, but amiable; and as to his writings, he says, "no man hath written, in our language, so much, and so various matter, and in so various manners, so well."

DR. SMOLLETT.

THIS celebrated novellist, respectable historian, and highly capable poet, Dr. TOBIAS GEORGE SMOLLETT, was a grandson of sir James Smollett, of Bonhill; and born at Dalquhurn house, on the banks of the river Leven, Scotland, 1721. He was educated at Dumbarton school; and early discovered talents for turning into ridicule, by satirical verses, such of his schoolfellows as happened to displease him. He was brought up to the medical profession at Glasgow; and, with his tragedy of the Regicide, written before he had reached his eighteenth year, he came to London, as a candidate for fame and fortune. Grievously disappointed in his dramatic prospects, by difficulties which he has well delineated, he entered on his professional pursuits; and, in 1741, acted as a surgeon's mate, on board a ship of the line, at the siege of Carthagena. He afterwards resided, for some time, at Jamaica; and, on returning to London, in 1746, entirely devoted himself to literary exertions. In 1747, he married Miss Anne Lascelles, a young lady to whom he had paid his addresses in Jamaica. Her fortune was three thousand pounds. but, after a very expensive litigation, he obtained only a small part of that sum; and, in the mean time, having taken a house, and commenced a style of hospitality which even the whole could not have supported, he was nnder the necessity of applying himself vigorously to his pen. In 1748, he published his novel of Roderick Random, which was attended with uncommon success. It gave him immediate celebrity, and ensured success for his future productions. In 1751, appeared Peregrine Pickle, which is also a work of great ingenuity and entertainment. In 1752, he attempted to resume the practice of physic; and, during his residence at Bath, published a treatise on the waters: but his professional efforts not being encouraged, he returned to Chelsea. He was the first manager of the Critical Review, which commenced in 1755, and continued to write for it many years.

In 1757, he began his History of England, the popularity of which was prodigious; and, about tbis period, published several other productions. He had failed in some early attempts for the stage; but his farce, called the Reprisals, or Tars of Old England, was brought out with success by Mr. Garrick. In 1762, he published a political paper, called the Briton, in defence of lord Bute's administration, which gave rise to the celebrated North Briton. Having, in June 1763, lost his only child, an amiable young lady of fifteen, he went abroad, with dejected spirits and infirm health, for about two years; and published, in 1766, his Travels through France and Italy, two vols. 8vo.

The genius of Smollett, though his abilities were very general, is seen chiefly in his novels: but, that he had a rich vein of sterling poetic merit, is sufficiently manifest in the very few finished pieces he has left us. His Ode to Independence, alone, had it been published before his decease, would have gained him the name of a poet. As an original delineator of sea characters, we are unable to mention his equal. Ferdinand Count Fathom had been published two years after Roderick Random; Sir Launcelot Greaves was produced in 1762; the Adventures of an Atom in 1769; and Humphry Clinker in 1771. Of these, the two first are certainly romantic, but extravagant; the third is political; and the last discovers an admirable knowledge of life and manners. He also translated Gil Blas, the Devil on Two Sticks, Don Quixote, and Telemachus.

Dr. Smollett died near Leghorn, October 21, 1771; where an epitaph, written by his friend, Dr. Armstrong, is inscribed on his tomb. A column was also erected to his memory, in 1774, near the house in which he was born; but it is melancholy to reflect, that his widow, who had retired to Jamaica, was some years after reduced to the humiliating necessity of soliciting public charity!

FIELDING.

THE incomparable HENRY FIELDING, son of general Fielding, and grandson of the earl of Denbigh, was born at Sharpham Park, his father's seat, in the county of Somerset, April 22, 1707. After receiving the rudiments of learning under a private tutor, he was sent to Eton; where, by assiduously cultivating his great natural talents, he acquired uncommon proficiency in the Greek and Latin languages. At the age of eighteen, he went to Leyden; and, having studied there two years, returned to England.

His father having a large family by a second marriage, the youth now sought to avail himself of his literary talents; and accordingly produced, in 1727, his first dramatic effort, Love in several Masques. Our gay and lively author had continued to write for the stage about seven years, with very different degrees both of merit and success, when he married the beautiful Miss Craddock, of Salisbury, with a fortune of 1500*l.* This sum, added to an estate of 200*l.* a year, his mother's jointure, though he had retired purposely to avoid extravagant town habits, by adopting the equally ruinous rural ones, of horses, hounds, and continual company, was all quickly swallowed up; and, in three years, he had no habitation which he could call his own!

Necessity now drove him to the study of the law; and, being called to the bar, he made a considerable figure in Westminster-hall. But continual attacks of the gout greatly interfered with his practice; and the exigencies of a little family, which he tenderly loved, obliged him to write literally for bread. Innumerable are the smaller productions of his pen, thus extorted from a mind harassed by inquietude, and struggling against the torrent of adversity. Some cruel insult, during this period of his sufferings, he probably ascribed to Colley Cibber; against whom he seems to have retained an invincible aversion, which still stains the pages of that exquisite romance, Joseph Andrews.

Our unfortunate author, however, was at length in some measure relieved, by becoming an acting magistrate for Middlesex; in which situation he produced his Tom Jones, and Amelia, besides occasional tracts, dramatic pieces, and essays for periodical works. These exertions, added to the fatigues of office, and the growing evil of a gouty habit, brought on such a complication of disorders, that he was advised to visit Lisbon, in search of health for ever fled! His spirits did not fail him to the last; for he wrote, with unabated vivacity, that charming production, his Voyage to Lisbon, though he had, previously to undertaking it, been tapped for the dropsy. He died there, October 8, 1754, about two months after his arrival, at the age of forty-eight.

He was survived by his second wife; and, leaving also four children, they were educated under the care of their uncle, aided by a generous annual donation from Ralph Allen, esq. Pope's celebrated Man of Bath. One of his sons is still living; that distinguished barrister, and most able police magistrate, who presides at the public office, in Queen-square, Westminster. The numerous works of Fielding are published in twelve vols. 8vo. with his life written by Arthur Murphy, esq.

Fielding, as a writer of comic romance, is only prevented from surpassing Cervantes, the first in the world, by having been born after him; as a dramatist, his Miser divides the palm with Moliere. Dr. Beattie says, "that since the days of Homer, the world has not known a more artful epic fable than Tom Jones." He also remarks, "that the novel, or comic romance, since the time of Fielding, seems to have been declining apace, from simplicity and nature, into improbability and affectation. Fielding had a more complete combination of wit, humour, learning, and practical knowledge of mankind, than any author of modern times."

RAPHAEL.

THE divine Raphael, as this illustrious Italian painter is usually called, though his true Italian name is Raffaello Sanzio, was born at Urbino, on Good Friday, in the year 1483. His father, John Sanzio, being an indifferent painter, and equally sensible of his own deficiency and the promising talents of his son, placed him early under Pietro Perugino; and the able pupil, soon perceiving the full extent of his master's capacity, went to Sierra for farther improvement. From hence, while engaged to make the cartoons for the pictures of the library, he was tempted suddenly to visit Florence, by the fame of Michael Angelo and Leonardo da Vinci. Inspired by their works, and attached to the chaste designs of the ancient statues and bas-reliefs, he formed a style of his own, which rendered him one of the chief painters the world has ever known.

Being alike eminent as an architect, he was employed by pope Leo X. to build St. Peter's, at Rome, and lived in the greatest splendour imaginable. He had many scholars, and most of the eminent masters were ambitious of working under him. Such was his fame, that Cardinal Bibiano offered him his niece in marriage, and he is said to have engaged himself; but Leo X. having given him reason to expect a cardinal's hat, he contrived to delay the performance of his promise. It was for this pontiff that he made his celebrated series of thirteen large historical cartoons from the sacred writings, representing the origin and progress of the Christian religion, to be executed in tapestry, intended as an additional decoration for the hall of Constantine: seven of which are now in his majesty's palace of Hampton court; but the others were probably mutilated or lost, and the tapestries were dispersed by the French Vandals, in 1798, when they sacked the Vatican.

Raphael's manners were peculiarly pleasing, and he was a very handsome man; but, immoderately addicted to licentious amours, his constitution was destroyed, and he was taken off in the flower of his age. He died on his birth-day, in 1520; and was buried, with great funeral pomp, in the church of the Rotunda, at Rome. In his will, after leaving to his mistress, called la Bella Fornarina, the daughter of a baker at Rome, sufficient to render her independent, he bequeathed the remainder of his property to a relation at Urbino, and two of his scholars, Julio Romano and Francisco Penni.

Raphael is said to have surpassed all modern painters, by possessing more excellences than any other; and it is thought by many, that he nearly equalled the best ancients. His naked figures possess not all the learning of Michael Angelo, and he falls short of that sublime master's grandenr and dignity of conception; but his design is more pleasing and pure. He painted not with so good, so full, and so graceful a manner, as Corregio; uor did he produce that charming contrast of light and shadow, or the inimitable strong and free colouring, which distinguish the works of Titian: but he had, beyond comparison, a better disposition in his pieces than either of those great men, or any that have succeeded them. His choice of attitudes, of heads, of ornaments; the suitableness of his draperies; his manner of designing; his varieties, his contrasts, his expression; formed the perfection of beauty and of grace.

Sir Joshua Reynolds has been denominated our British Raphael; and, though we see him fall short of the sweetest painter of the modern world, it is, perhaps, because he nobly dared to attempt a still higher flight, on the vigorous pinion of his darling Michael Angelo.

"The general opinion," says Mr. Fuseli, "has placed Raphael at the head of his art; not because he possessed a decided superiority over every other painter, in every branch, but because no other artist ever arrived at uniting with his own peculiar excellence all the other parts of the art in an equal degree with him."

BEN JONSON.

Our poet, BEN JONSON, the fruit of a posthumous birth, was born, June 11, 1574, about a month after the death of his father, a clergyman, in Hartshorn-lane, Charing-cross. He received a most excellent education, at Westminster-school, under the learned Camden. But his mother having married a bricklayer, he was for some time obliged to labour at that humiliating employ. He quitted it, in disgust, and commenced soldier; in which character he went abroad, and distinguished himself by killing one of the enemy in sight of both armies. Of this circumstance he was ever afterwards not a little vain. On his return home, he joined a company of strolling players; and was afterwards engaged at an obscure theatre near Shoreditch, called the Green Curtain, from which the present Curtain-road derives the name it bears. He soon commenced writing trifles for the stage: but was not, at first, very successful as a poet; and, as a performer, never. His acting is described as awkward and mean; and his temper is said to have been rough and untractable. He chiefly distinguished himself, at this period, by a duel with a brother actor; whom he killed, though the sword of his adversary, ten inches longer than his own, had wounded him in the arm. For this he was imprisoned; and, as it is expressed, "brought near the gallows," but afterwards pardoned. On his enlargement, about 1595, he married, as he describes her, "a shrew, yet honest to him," and laboured to support his family by his pen. Much to the honour of Shakspeare, he found, in that immortal bard, the kindest patron; for, on accidentally seeing a play which Jonson had written, he immediately brought it out, at his own theatre, and himself represented one of the characters. Thus encouraged to proceed, he next wrote that admirable comedy, Every Man in his Humour, performed on the same stage in 1598; and, after this, which was his first printed dramatic piece, continued regularly to produce a new play annually, till the year 1600, when he began to devote himself to the amusements of the court. He now commenced writing occasional masques, &c. which are to be considered as the lighter efforts of his muse, from which he sometimes retired to the cultivation of his comic genius.

In 1610, was produced his celebrated Alchymist. He now grew into eminence; which clearly appears, by the incessant attacks of a herd of witlings. It must be acknowledged, that Jonson was desirous of ruling with a despotic sceptre, and never inclined to use conciliatory measures. In 1613, he made the tour of France; and, in 1617, King James appointed him poet-laureat. He now presided in the English Parnassus. The salary was then only 100 marks per annum; but Jonson presented, in 1630, a poetical petition to King Charles, praying that his majesty would make his marks, pounds: which he obtained; with, at the same time, the grant of "a tierce of Canary Spanish wine yearly, during his life, out of his majesty's cellars at Whitehall," of which there is no mention in the former grant. At the close of this year, he travelled into Scotland, to visit Drummond of Hawthornden, who has preserved many curious particulars respecting our poet. The latter plays of Jonson failed to please; his health decayed; and he was afflicted by age and poverty. Charles I. occasionally relieved his distresses; yet was he reduced to write, what he called, an Epistle Mendicant. After long wasting with a disease of the paralytic kind, he died, August 16, 1637, and was interred in Westminster-abbey.

Jonson was never long, popular. His learning stifled his genius; and, perhaps, his genius was not exquisite. His verses are generally harsh; and though this poet was considered, by himself and his friends, as the formidable rival of Shakspeare, posterity has not sanctioned this opinion. Yet it must be admitted, that some of his comedies equal any on the stage, where they still deservedly keep their station, as stock pieces.

JOHN HAMPDEN.

THIS ever-memorable patriot was descended from the very antient and reputable family of that name, at Hampden, in Buckinghamshire; but was born at London in the year 1594. At the age of fifteen he was sent to Magdalen-college, Oxford; from whence, without taking any degree, he returned to London, where he studied the law in one of the inns of court, and made considerable progress, as he had done before at the University.

He was a member of the second parliament, which met at Westminster in 1626, as well as of two succeeding ones. But his conduct attracted no particular notice till the year 1636, when it excited universal attention, and very general applause, in consequence of his gaining the cause in the court of King's Bench, against Charles the First, with respect to the payment of ship-money, demanded by that monarch, without the sanction of parliament. The celebrated author of the Seasons, speaking of the great men that Britain has produced, celebrates Hampden in the glorious colours of a warm and active patriot—

> "A Hampden too is thine, illustrious land,
> Wise, strenuous, firm, of unsubmitting soul,
> Who stemm'd the torrent of a downward age,
> To slavery prone, and bade thee rise again
> In all thy native pomp of freedom bold."

After having been for some time one of the leading men in parliament, in opposition to Charles's arbitrary measures, he was one of the first to take up arms in defence of his principles, and took part in the commencement of hostilities at the Brill, one of the king's garrisons, on the borders of Buckinghamshire, about five miles from Oxford.

Hampden, having subsequently taken the command of a regiment under the earl of Essex, continued to signalize himself by the display of great skill and valour, till the 18th of June 1643, when, in a skirmish with prince Rupert, at Chalgrove-field, in Oxfordshire, he was cut off by a mortal wound. Two bullets, which were lodged in his shoulder, had broken the bone, and after languishing till the 24th, he died, to the inexpressible loss of the people, whose cause he had so nobly espoused. It has been observed, that the spot on which Hampden met his fate, was the same where he had commenced the war by attacking the king's troops. It should be observed, that he was a kinsman of Oliver Cromwell, whose aunt his father had married; and from this period he rapidly rose to be one of the most popular men in the kingdom.

Such is the respect in which his memory has been held by his grateful country, that some years ago, one of his descendants being deficient in an account of public money, he was exonerated from the debt due to government, by an act of parliament, particularly expressing, that it was for services that his illustrious relation had done to his country, that this favour was shewn to him. The late poet-laureat, Henry James Pye, esq. was a descendant of this distinguished patriot. However, throughout the whole of the cause for which Hampden fought, lord Clarendon acknowledges "that he conducted himself with such singular modesty and temper, that he actually obtained more credit and advantage by losing it, than the king did service by gaining it."

The poet Edmund Waller was also the nephew of the patriot Hampden, and though he afterwards appears to have changed his opinion, his conduct in the early part of his political career was certainly formed on his uncle's principles.—But with respect to Hampden,

> A high descent lent nothing to his fame,
> Virtue, not birth, distinguish'd hisgre at name.

OLIVER CROMWELL.

THIS elevated character, so highly distinguished in English history, was the son of Robert Cromwell, a gentleman of moderate property, near Huntingdon, where Oliver was born on the 25th of April, 1599. The first part of his education, he received at the free-school there, and was removed to Sydney-college, Cambridge. Having little disposition for learning, a moderate acquaintance with Latin was all he carried with him to the university, where his stay was short. The death of his father called him home, and his turbulence and irregularities compelled his mother to send him for improvement to Lincoln's Inn. He married, before he had completed his 21st year, Elizabeth Bourchier, daughter of sir James Bourchier, of Essex; and, soon after settling at Huntingdon, began to lead a grave and sober life. His uncle, sir Thomas Cromwell, dying, left him an estate of 400*l.* or 500*l.* per annum. Before this time he had been chosen member for the borough of Huntingdon. In 1628, he distinguished himself in parliament by his zeal against popery. About the year 1637, he was upon the point of going to New England to retrieve his affairs. At the meeting of the long parliament in 1640, he was returned for Cambridge, and was very active in promoting the famous remonstrance of 1641, which was almost the direct cause of the civil war. In 1642, when the parliament determined to levy forces, he went to Cambridge, soon raised a troop of horse, and commanded them under a commission from the earl of Essex. After this, he almost daily distinguished himself by some daring acts of courage and enterprize against the royal party, and soon made his regiment the best in the parliament service.

Having, by various important achievements, acquired the confidence of parliament, he was made lieutenant general of the cavalry, commanded by the duke of Manchester; and, at the battle of Marston Moor, he turned the fortune of the day. After the battle of Newbury, he was stiled by his party, "The saviour of the nation." He continued to perform the most brilliant exploits; and it was through his counsel that the decisive victory of Naseby was obtained in June 1645. After the war was ended by the delivering up of the king by the Scotch army, Cromwell, whose overgrown authority this measure was meant to check, had the art to turn it to his own advantage. He managed Fairfax and the rest of his competitors, and all his intrigues were successfully crowned when he got the king's person and the army into his power.

But it was not without opposition that he pursued the line of his ambition: having quelled the mutiny among his own troops, he was compelled to renew the war with equal success against the king's friends in Scotland and Ireland. The only enemy he had now left was the long parliament; and the courageous manner in which he dissolved them is well known. By their successors, an assembly of his own choosing, he was declared lord protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland. From this time he may be viewed as the sovereign of a great nation, and he immediately made peace with the Dutch, and treaties with Denmark and Portugal. Even France and Spain made advances to him, but his death occurred on the 3d of September 1658. His general character is that of a fortunate, rather than a great man: it is however indisputable, that our navigation act, which has contributed to raise the maritime power of this country to a degree unprecedented in the history of nations, originated with the government of Oliver Cromwell. A violent tempest, immediately succeeding his death, served as some confirmation of the vulgar belief in prodigies and portents, and excited a variety of conjectures, mostly in favour of the deceased.

SAMUEL WHITBREAD.

THIS distinguished senator, the son of the opulent brewer, was born in 1758. At a proper age he was sent to Eton, where he commenced an intimate acquaintance with Mr. W. H. Lambton, afterwards M. P. for Durham, and Mr. now earl Grey. From Eton he removed to Christchurch College, Oxford; and from thence to St. John's, Cambridge. After visiting the continent, in 1788, he married Miss Grey, the sister of his schoolfellow, earl Grey. In 1790, he was elected for Bedford, though not without opposition. He commenced his political career in parliament with an animated speech against the unconstitutional doctrine of "confidence," assumed on the part of ministers, who claimed an entire reliance on their wisdom and integrity for that policy that had nearly plunged the country into a war with Russia, on account of the seizure of Ockzacow. When the slave trade occupied the public attention, Mr. Whitbread always avowed himself a steady and zealous friend to the abolition, and supported it by a display of eloquence, which commanded universal applause. In 1795, when so much distress had been occasioned by a scarcity, instead of an extensive and complicated plan by the minister, Mr. Whitbread proposed a *minimum* with respect to the labour of husbandmen; thus to establish a more accurate proportion between this and the means of subsistence. But as this measure was opposed by Mr. Pitt, his laudable efforts were unavailing. As he was an undisguised and uniform opposer of the French war in 1793, because he thought it unnecessary and unjust, so he was the enemy to every abuse of the revenue, and an undue exertion of the royal prerogative; but a friend to reform in the house of commons, though not to the visionary plans of annual parliaments and universal suffrage.

In his parliamentary attendance no man could be more assiduous, and he was for a considerable time the leader of the opposition in the house of commons. He also held a partnership in the Chiswell-street brewery till the time of his death; and at length voluntarily undertook the herculean labour of arranging the perplexed concerns of Drury Lane Theatre. His mind was now evidently impaired by intense application; he became drowsy, lethargic, and irritable; indications that were too soon succeeded by the fatal catastrophe of July 6, 1815, at his house in Dover-street, Piccadilly; and the verdict of the coroner and jury, stating, "that Samuel Whitbread, Esq. died by his own hand."

But when his noble friend the marquis of Tavistock, on moving for a new writ for Bedford, took occasion to pronounce his encomium, he was listened to amidst the loud cheerings of both sides of the house of commons. "Accustomed," said he, "to defend his opinions with warmth and earnestness, the energies of his own mind would never permit the least approach to tameness or indifference. But no particle of animosity ever found a place in his breast, and he never carried his enmities beyond the threshold of this house. It was his uniform practice to do justice to the motives of his political opponents, and I am happy to feel that the same justice is done to his motives by them. Only those who, like myself, have had the opportunity of observing his conduct nearly, can be aware of his unabated zeal in promoting the happiness of all around him. His eloquent appeals to this house in favour of the unfortunate, will adorn the pages of the future historian; while at the present moment they afford a subject of melancholy retrospect to those who have formerly dwelt with delight on the benevolence of a heart that always beat, and on the vigour of an intellect which was always employed, for the benefit of his fellow creatures."

He left behind him two sons and two daughters, by his mourning widow, the lady Elizabeth, and was interred in the family vault at Southhill, in Bedfordshire.

ROBERT BURNS.

THIS true son of poetic inspiration was born on the 25th of January 1759, on the banks of Doon, about two miles from Ayr, in Scotland. Being sent to school about six, at eleven years of age he had made considerable progress in reading and writing; but the rules of arithmetic he was taught by his father, who was a gardener by profession, in the winter evenings.

Having acquired a strong propensity for reading any books that fell in his way, it was long before he shewed any attachment to poetry, notwithstanding his acquaintance with an antient beldam, who had the largest collection in the country of tales and songs, concerning devils, ghosts, fairies, witches, &c. In his seventeenth year, he went to a country dancing-school, though much in opposition to his father's sentiments, as a rigid presbyterian. After his death, Burns, having attained his twenty-fourth year, became anxious to be fixed in a situation to enable him to marry. His brother Gilbert and he had held a small portion of land from their father some years, on which they raised flax. Robert commenced flax-dresser, but his shop, taking fire, was utterly destroyed, and he was left not worth sixpence. The brothers afterwards settled upon a small farm at Mosgiel, where buying bad seed, and a late harvest, nearly ruined the concern, and Burns was on the point of setting out for Jamaica, in the situation of an overseer. Fortunately, he had not only cultivated his poetical talents during these vicissitudes of life, but had lately published a volume of poems by subscription. He had paid his passage; and his chest of clothing, &c. was on the way to Greenock, when a letter from Dr. Blacklock, assuring him that he would meet with encouragement in Edinburgh for a second edition, completely changed his intentions. To add to his misfortunes, the parents of Miss Jean Armour, the young woman upon whom he had set his affections, refused their consent to his marriage; but soon after his arrival in Edinburgh, his poems procured him the admiration of persons of rank and power; and, in a short time, his name was celebrated all over the kingdom.

About this time he erected, at his own expense, a monument in the Canon-gate churchyard, at Edinburgh, to the memory of the unfortunate poet, Ferguson. Here Burns spent his days in the company of his admirers, and his nights in dissipation: however, on settling with his publisher, he found himself master of nearly five hundred pounds, two hundred of which he immediately advanced to his brother Gilbert, who had taken on himself the support of his aged mother, and was still struggling with many difficulties in his farm. Burns then engaged in another farm on his own account, and having been previously recommended to the Board of Excise, he vainly hoped to unite with success the labours of the farmer with the duties of the exciseman. Some time previous to this, his marriage with the beloved object of his heart had taken place, but ultimately his farm was in a great measure abandoned to servants, his love of convivial company gaining upon him. In 1795, he lost his only daughter; and, twice attacked by a severe rheumatic fever, the last of these terminated the life and sufferings of this great and eccentric genius, on the 21st of July 1796, in the thirty-eighth year of his age, at Dumfries, in Scotland.

After all, his integrity and honest pride, with the prudence and frugality of his wife, had prevented him from running in debt; however, a considerable fund was raised for his widow and children, and the profits of Dr. Curric's edition of his works, in four large volumes, being devoted to the same purpose, Mrs. Burns has been put in possession of a handsome annuity; and thus one of the best monuments has been raised to his memory.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

THIS most illustrious and suhlime painter, sculptor, and architect of the Italian school, and consequently of the modern world, sur-named Buonaroti, drew his first breath, in the year 1474, in the territory of Arezzo in Tuscany. He was born a painter, and his nurse being the wife of a statuary, it has been remarked, "that he sucked in statuary with his milk." His respectable parents, flattered and delighted with the scintillations of his early genius, placed him with a master, whom they thought capable of regulating his advances towards the temple of fame. As it has been frequently the case with native excellence, the pupil soon excelled his guide, and, at the age of sixteen, produced works which equalled some of the best models of antiquity.

Among a number of respectable names who employed and patronized him, we find those of popes Julius II. Leo X. Clement VII. Paul III. Julius III. Paul IV. Francis I. the emperor Charles V. and the count de Medicis. He was also employed by the republic of Venice, and even by Solyman the magnificent, emperor of the Turks.

Michael Angelo has the reputation of being the greatest designer that ever existed; and certainly no painter has equalled him in anatomical skill. As an architect also, he has not only surpassed all the moderns, hut, in the opinion of many, even the best antients; for the proof of which they refer to St. Peter's, at Rome; St. John's, at Florence; the Capitol; the Farnese Palace; and his own house at Florence. It is imputed to the jealousy of rivals, that Michael Angelo was ordered by Pope Julius to quit the chissel for the pencil, and employ himself in painting the dome of the chapel of Sextus IV. His success crowned him with new laurels, though the impatient pontiff would not permit him to put the last hand to the performance.

Having acquired great wealth, and nearly completed his ninetieth year, he died at Rome in 1564; hut the count de Medicis had his remains privately conveyed to Florence, where his funeral obsequies were celebrated with unequalled pomp and magnificence. A grand pageant was formed by the united genius of that city, adorned with statuary and emblematical paintings, the whole of which bore some relation to the most interesting periods of the life of the deceased. For instance, he was represented as ambassador to Julius II. treated by the Medicis with the greatest respect; conversing with popes, and seated by their side, while cardinals and courtiers stood listening around. He was also depicted as being received at Venice with public honours; and, lastly, he appeared in his school, surrounded by a crowd of pupils, who were in the act of presenting to him their respective works in the different branches of the arts. This act of posthumous celebrity was witnessed by persons from all parts of Italy; but to these temporary trophies a more durable monument succeeded, erected by the grand duke, in the church of St. Lorenzo, where it is still to be seen, adorned with the three figures of painting, sculpture, and architecture. The house or palace, in which Michael Angelo resided at Florence, remains an object of curiosity. Here are some paintings representing the principal actions of his life; and some pieces, said to be by his own hand. His known works, however, form the true monuments of his glory. His pencil was fierce, terrible, and suhlime. His most celebrated painting is the Last Judgment; his best sculptures are a Cupid and a Bacchus. The former he painted for Paul III.; it is a work of astonishing variety, though upon the whole unpleasing, as he has made it a vehicle of personal satire. He also cultivated poetry with some success. He was never married; and he used to say that his art was his wife, and his works his children, who would perpetuate his memory.

RICHARDSON.

The celebrated SAMUEL RICHARDSON was the son of a joiner in Derbyshire, but always avoided mentioning the town he was born at, in the year 1689. He was intended at first for the church; but, the expense being found too great, his father at last bound him to a printer. He was never acquainted with any language but his own, though from his childhood he was remarkable for his invention, and famous among his schoolfellows for amusing them with tales and stories, the result of unstudied ingenuity. He was constitutionally shy and bashful; and, instead of mixing in noisy sports and exercises, used to read and converse with the sedate part of the other sex, or assist them in composing their love epistles.

During his apprenticeship, he distinguished himself only by exemplary diligence and fidelity. He, like Hogarth's virtuous apprentice, married his master's daughter, extended his wealth and credit by sobriety, bought a residence in the country, and arrived in due time at the respectable situation of master of the Worshipful Company of Stationers.—Among his friends was Mr. Speaker Onslow, by whom Richardson was employed to print the original edition of the journals of the House of Commons. His first work was his Pamela, which, making its appearance about 1740, was generally read and admired, and even recommended from the pulpit.—Thus encouraged, he produced those matchless moral romances, Clarissa Harlowe, and Sir Charles Grandison; and, within eight years after the appearance of Pamela, his reputation appears to have attained its zenith: the interval between Clarissa and Sir Charles Grandison was about five years.

Besides his great works, Richardson published only a paper in the Rambler, (the 97th); an edition of Æsop's Fables, with reflections; and a volume of Familiar Letters for the use of persons in inferior situations. His moral character was in the highest degree exemplary and amiable: he was temperate, industrious, and upright; punctual in all his dealings; with a liberality and generosity of disposition, that, without literary abilities, could not have failed making him a general favourite. He was twice married, and had by his first wife five sons and a daughter; and, by his second, five daughters and a son. All but four daughters by his second marriage, he had the misfortune to lose. He was particularly partial to the society of females; and lived, as Mrs. Barbauld has expressed it, "in a flower garden of ladies." Dr. Johnson, perhaps, with some illiberality, supposes that Richardson preferred their conversation, because they were most lavish of their admiration of his celebrated works. He loved to complain, as most invalids do; and scarcely wrote a private letter during the latter part of his life, without some notice of "his nervous tremors, his giddiness, and catchings." He had high notions of parental authority, and does not always seem quite satisfied with the share of veneration which his wife was inclined to pay him; he was, upon the whole, an affectionate parent and husband, though his sensibilities were excessive. At length a paralytic stroke so affected his nerves, that he could not lift a glass of wine to his mouth without assistance, and this disorder, finally terminating in an apoplexy, deprived the world of this exalted genius, and most worthy man, on the fourth of July 1761, at the age of 72; and he was buried with his first wife, leaving the second a widow, in the church of St. Bride, Fleet-street.

The productions of Richardson have been accused of a general prolixity; but this probably arose from his wishes to embrace every topic connected with his exalted views of moral improvement: and he thus "taught the passions to move at the command of virtue."

LINNÆUS.

The illustrious CHARLES VON LINNÆUS, one of the greatest naturalists the world has ever produced, knight of the polar star, founder and first president of the academy at Stockholm, professor of botany in the university of Upsal, and an honorary member of almost every scientific society in Europe, was born May 24, 1707, at Rocshult, in the Swedish province of Smaland. From the time he left his cradle, he almost lived in his father's garden, which was planted with some of the rarer shrubs and flowers; and, as he advanced in youth, he never ceased harassing his parent with questions, about the names, qualities, and nature, of every plant he saw. Whilst at school, he employed the hours allotted to play in hunting after plants, and was hence called "the little botanist;" but his master resisted this propensity. Even at this early period he had formed an Herbarium; and his plants were classed according to Tournefort's system. From school he went to the university of Lund, and thence to the famous university of Upsal. Here, apparently by accident, he became known to the venerable Celsus, who was so struck with his intimate knowledge of plants, that he desired Linnæus to bring his Herbarium along with him, and live with him free of every expense. Here, seeing a review, in the Leipsic Commentaries, of Vaillant's Discourse on the Structure of Flowers, which strongly inculcates the *sexes of plants*, Linnæus was induced to be more attentive to their stamina and pistilla, which, after diligent observation, he found to vary as much as the petals themselves. Committing the results to writing, Celsus highly approved of this manuscript, and sent it to Rudbec, who expressed much satisfaction, and in consequence desired Linnæus to be sent to him. The issue of this meeting was the appointment of the latter as lecturer, in the room of Rudbec, who wished to retire. Here, in the year 1730, Linnæus, although only *twenty-three years of age*, delivered his first lecture in the university of Upsal, which was received by the professors with the most flattering marks of approbation. Rudbec also appointed him tutor to his sons, and in the house of this aged professor he enjoyed every opportunity of farther improvement.

Two years after, with the wish of Gustavus, he was appointed by the Upsal royal academy of sciences to make the tour of Lapland, for the purpose of exploring the plants of the arctic regions.—This gave rise to his first immortal work, the Flora Lapponica, which strongly excited the attention of the botanist and the world towards the *sexual system*, so long the object of his studies, and which at length triumphed over the objections of Heister, of Haller, of Alston, and even those of Buffon; after whom, Celsus, and others, he named some of his plants.

In 1735, after having travelled over the continent, he took his doctor's degree, and published the first sketch of his *Systema Naturæ*. In 1736 he visited England, and in 1738 made an excursion to Paris, and ultimately returned to Stockholm, and settled there as a physician. In 1760, the Imperial Academy at St. Petersburgh offered a premium for the best paper on the sexes of plants: this premium was gained by Linnæus. In 1776 he became paralytic, and lost his memory. In January 1778, he resigned his professorship, and was rewarded by the king with a double pension, and had landed property settled on him and his family for ever. After almost every possible honour had been paid to his abilities both at home and abroad, he died on the 11th of January 1778, at the age of 71. The court and university went into mourning:—he was buried at Upsal, at the expense of the state; and, in the king's annual speech, his death was mentioned as a public loss.

WILLIAM PALEY, D.D.

This eminent divine was born at Peterborough, on the 30th of August 1743. When about fifteen, he accompanied his father, who was a minor canon of that cathedral, to Cambridge, and was admitted a sizar of Christ's college, Nov. 16, 1758. In October 1759, he became resident member of that college, and on the 6th December was appointed to one of the scholarships, founded by Mr. Carr, and appropriated to scholars from Giggleswick school, in Yorkshire, of which his father was head master. In May 1761, he was elected to Mr. Buntry's scholarship; in 1763, when he took his degree of bachelor of arts, he was also senior wrangler of the year, and, after leaving the university, engaged as second assistant at a great academy at Greenwich. Here, while teaching Latin to others, he improved his own classical talents; and after this period paid great attention to public speaking, in an occasional attendance upon the bar and the stage: his visits to London he converted to the best uses.

Being ordained a deacon as soon as age would permit, he engaged as curate to the Rev. Dr. Hinchliffe, of Greenwich, and soon after left Mr. Bracken's school. In June 1766, he was elected a fellow on the foundation of Christ's college, returned to a residence in the university, took his degree of master of arts; and in 1767 was ordained a priest in St. James's chapel, London, by bishop Terrick.

On the 6th of June 1776, he was married to Miss Hewitt, at St. Mary's, Carlisle, where his friend Mr. Law performed the ceremony. Soon after this, Mr. Paley set out for Lincoln, where, as sub-dean, he was obliged to reside three months in the year. At Musgrove, on the banks of the Eden, in indulging an early disposition for angling, he owned he passed some of the happiest hours of his life. He soon after got the vicarage of Dalston, in Cumberland; and in the September following was inducted to the more valuable one of Appleby. In June 1780, he was installed a prebendary of Carlisle, and in 1782 became archdeacon of that city, to which the rectory of Great Salkeld, worth about one hundred and twenty pounds a year, is always annexed. While Mr. Paley was at the university, he was extremely intimate with Mr. Edward Law, now Lord Ellenborough, and afterwards with the American General Lee. In 1798, he published his Horæ Paulinæ, or, the Truth of the Scripture History evinced by a Comparison of the Epistles, &c. In May 1791, he lost Mrs. Paley, who left him four sons and four daughters: his Evidences of Christianity appeared early in 1794; and in August following he was instituted to the prebend of Pancras in the cathedral of St. Paul's; and this promotion was soon followed by that of the deanery of Lincoln, bestowed by Dr. Prettyman, worth about seven hundred pounds a year. In 1795, he took his degree as doctor of divinity at Cambridge; and, returning to Bishops' Wearmouth, agreed with some of the principal land-holders for an annual compensation for tithes: he also granted long leases of his glebe lands.

In December 1795, he married Miss Dobinson, of Carlisle: but, in 1800, he sustained a violent nephralgic complaint at Bishops' Wearmouth, and experienced a second attack at Lincoln in 1801, for which he tried two months' residence at Buxton waters. In 1804, his health was fast declining: he, however, returned from Lincoln to Bishops' Wearmouth, where all human skill was exerted in vain; but he met the approach of death with firmness, and died late on the evening of Saturday, May 25, 1805. His remains were conveyed to Carlisle, and deposited in one of the aisles of the cathedral, by the side of his first wife.

CURRAN.

THE late right honourable JOHN PHILPOT CURRAN, a distinguished ornament of the Irish bar, was born about 1750, in the village of Newmarket, in the county of Cork, eight miles from that romantic castle, where Spenser is said to have written his Faery Queen. His father, James Curran, seneschal of the manor, besides the small revenue of the office, possessed a very moderate income. His education had been far from liberal; but very different in point of intellectual endowments was his wife. The sprightliness of young Curran having attracted the notice of the rev. Mr. Boyse, the rector of Newmarket, allured to his home, from him he learned his alphabet, his grammar, and the rudiments of the classics: he taught young Curran all he could, then he sent him to the school at Middleton. From Mr. Carey, here, young Curran received more than the common classical education of the country, and went from this as a sizar to Trinity college, Dublin, in June 1767. Through this university it has been aptly said Mr. Curran passed as Swift, Burke, and Goldsmith, did before him.

From the college he proceeded to London, and contrived to enter his name on the books of the Middle Temple; having only a small stipend from the school at Middleton, it is understood that to the newspapers and magazines of the day, he was no inconsiderable contributor. Returning to Ireland, after having passed through his terms at the Temple, he married a lady of small fortune: this connection his friends would wish to pass over in silence; but, in the year 1775, he was called to the bar of Ireland, after having been compelled to place his wife and young children in a miserable lodging upon Hog-hill, and to pace the hall of the four courts, term after term, without profit or professional reputation. Mr. Arthur Wolfe, afterwards the unfortunate but respected lord Kilwarden, was one of the first to feel for Curran; and the first fee of consequence he received, was through his recommendation. After this, the rapidity of his rise was only distinguished by its brilliancy. He sailed through the professional heaven, uneclipsed by any rival planet. The honesty and native warmth of Mr. Curran, with respect to persons acting upon principles he did not approve, involved him in no less than four duels: happily for him, these were bloodless.

Mr. Curran's career, it is confessed, was not so distinguished in the senate as in the courts of justice, though he was connected with Mr. Grattan, Mr. George Ponsonby, and the principal popular leaders in the opposition, during which time he was appointed master of the rolls: he was in principle a whig; made so by his education, his passions, and his habits. He was an unsuccessful candidate at the last election for Newry, in Ireland, in 1812, and never was returned to the British house of commons. Next to his eloquence, his acuteness and ability in examining a witness challenged public admiration; he was considered shrewder than lord Erskine, and more polished than Garrow, and almost the last of that brilliant phalanx, the cotemporaries and fellow labourers of Mr. Fox, in the cause of general liberty.

In the decline of the year 1817 he visited London for the last time; he attended several public dinners, and spoke at some of them; but oh! how changed: his mind was rapidly going. He died at his lodgings, in Amelia-place, Brompton, on the 8th of October, when, being struck with apoplexy about seven in the evening, he expired at nine. His funeral was attended only by a few friends to Paddington church, and his body deposited in the vault beneath it, on the 4th of November. On his coffin, he is described to have died aged sixty-seven.

ARCHBISHOP TILLOTSON.

THIS truly pious prelate was born at Sowerby, in the parish of Halifax, Yorkshire, in October 1630. After rapidly attaining a skill in the learned languages, he was sent to Cambridge in 1647, and admitted a pensioner of Clare Hall. His father having become an anabaptist, could never satisfy the scruples of the son to what he deemed an illiberal mode of faith; and he was finally secured from these prejudices by reading the immortal work of Chillingworth, entitled The Religion of Protestants a safe Way to Salvation. Having adopted a new line of study, he entered into intimacies with some of the greatest theologians of that time residing in Cambridge; and his most intimate friend was Dr. John Wilkins, subsequently bishop of Chester. Tillotson left college about 1657, being invited by Edmund Prideaux, esq. of Ford Abbey, to instruct his son: how long he remained in that capacity is uncertain, as is also the time of his entering into holy orders; but the first sermon of his that appeared in print was preached at the morning exercise at Cripplegate. In 1662, he submitted to the Act of Uniformity, which commenced on St. Bartholomew's day. He was the introducer of a style of preaching that was equally dignified and simple. He said what was necessary to give a clear idea of things, but he said no more. His sentences were short and clear; he had no affectation of learning, no torturing of texts, no false thoughts, nor bold flights; all was solid, yet lively and grave as well as elegant. His sermons, however, he never chose to commit to memory. His first appointment after the Restoration was the curacy of Cheshunt, in Hertfordshire. Here he is said, by his gentleness and eloquence, to have induced an Oliverian soldier, who preached among the anabaptists of that town in a red coat, with great popularity, to betake himself to some other employment. In December 1662, he was elected minister of St. Mary, Aldermanbury, by the parishioners, but declined the acceptance: though, in 1663, he did accept the rectory of Kelton, in Suffolk. Shortly after, being called to London by the society of Lincoln's Inn, as their preacher, he determined upon settling in the metropolis, and resigned his Suffolk rectory. He next became Tuesday lecturer at St. Lawrence Jewry; and soon after published 'The Rule of Faith', inscribed to Dr. Stillingfleet. In 1666, he took the degree of D.D.; in 1669, he was collated to the prebend of the second stall in Christ's Church, Canterbury; and in 1675 he had a similar preferment in St. Paul's.

His zeal against popery during the reign of Charles II. naturally intercepted the royal favour; but his conduct whilst dean of Canterbury, was the occasion of his advancement to that see, under William and Mary. The refusal of archbishop Sancroft to acknowledge their authority occasioning his suspension, William fixed upon Tillotson as his successor; and it is certain that he accepted this dignity with real reluctance. He did not long survive his advancement. He was seized with a palsy, and died on the fifth day of his illness, in the 65th year of his age. His grace's theological publications are still held in high repute, and have been frequently re-printed: the best edition of his works were published in three volumes folio, by Dr. Birch, in 1752. His funeral sermon was preached by bishop Burnet, from 2 Tim. iv. 7. King William's regard for the archbishop extended to his widow. His grace's charity had been so extensive, and the repairs and improvements of his palace so great, that he left nothing to his family, but the copy-right of his posthumous sermons, which sold for 2500 guineas. The annuities granted to Mrs. Tillotson by the king were till her death, in 1704; and for regular payment of these pensions the royal donor was so solicitous, that he always called for the money quarterly, and sent it to her himself.

SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN.

THIS illustrious architect was born at East Knoyle, in Wiltshire, in the year 1632, where his father was rector; the latter part of his education he received under the celebrated Dr. Busby, at Westminster school, whence he was sent to Oxford, where his progress in mathematical learning was deemed astonishing. In 1657, he read lectures on astronomy at Gresham college in London, and in 1658 not only solved the problem proposed by the great Pascal to all the English mathematicians, but proposed another to the French mathematicians, to which they never returned any solution. In February 1661, he was chosen Savilian professor of astronomy at Oxford, in the room of Dr. Seth Ward; and in the September of that year, created LL.D. Among his other eminent accomplishments, Dr. Wren had acquired such considerable skill in architecture, that he was requested, by order of Charles II. to assist sir John Denham, surveyor-general of his Majesty's works. In 1663, he was one of the first fellows of the royal society, after the grant of their charter. At this period he had been solicited to prepare designs for the general renovation of old St. Paul's cathedral. In 1665 he went to France, and surveyed every structure with the eye of a critic. After the fire of London, which began on September 2, 1666, he drew a plan for an entirely new city, so contrived that the chief streets were to cross each other in right lines, with smaller streets between them. The public buildings and markets were so disposed as not to interfere with the streets; and four piazzas were placed at proper distances, at which the streets should meet. The parochial churches were visible at the end of every vista of houses, and from their distribution appeared neither too thick nor too thin in prospect. From St. Paul's, the centre of the whole, streets were to have diverged in every direction. The public halls for the companies were to be upon a quay facing the Thames, where some of the principal merchants, as at Yarmouth, were to have their houses; but all this magnificence of taste was sunk in the little disputes about private property! Sir John Denham dying in 1668, Dr. Wren succeeded him, and in the same year finished the Theatre at Oxford. In 1674, he received the honour of knighthood from Charles II. and some time after married the daughter of sir Thomas Coghill, of Blechington, in Oxfordshire, by whom he had one son. By his second wife, Jane, daughter of lord Fitzwilliam, in Ireland, he had two others, a son and a daughter. In 1674, he began the new cathedral of St. Paul's, and in 1667, completed the Monument. In 1680, he was elected president of the royal society, and in the following years he put the finishing hand to the church of St. Stephen's, Walbrook. In 1685, sir Christopher was chosen representative for Plympton, in Devonshire; in 1690, he began to build the new apartments at Hampton court, which were finished in 1694. In 1699, he finished Chelsea college, and being the architect of Greenwich hospital, renounced all salary and emolument on the occasion. In 1708 he was appointed one of the commissioners for building the new churches in and about London, many of which he finished, and in 1710 he completed the magnificent cathedral of St. Paul's. After a service of fifty years, sir Christopher, in the 86th year of his age, was, in 1718, removed from the office of surveyor, and died at his house at Hampton court, on the 25th of February 1723, in the ninety-first year of his age. His funeral was attended by many persons of honour and distinction to St. Paul's, where his corpse was deposited under a flat stone, railed in between two pillars, and bearing a short English inscription, the pith of which consists of the following words—

"Reader, if thou seekest his monument, look round."

Holl. sculp.

CARDINAL WOLSEY.

THIS stately prelate was the son of a butcher, at Ipswich, where he was born in the year 1471. A precocity of talent, observed in him hy his father, induced him to send his son early to the grammar school, whence, by the assistance of friends, he was removed to Magdalen College, Oxford. Here his progress was such, that taking the degree of B. A. when only fifteen years of age, he was commonly called "The Boy Bachelor." He was next admitted to a fellowship in the same College, and afterwards made master of Magdalen School, where his intimacy with the sons of the marquis of Dorset first paved the way to his future preferment.

Wolsey resided some time with the marquis of Dorset at Lymington; but in consequence of having been set in the stocks, by sir Amias Pawlet, a justice of the peace, for joining in some disturhance at a fair, he left that place, and hecame chaplain to Dr. Deane, archbishop of Canterbury. Being afterwards appointed one of the royal chaplains at the court of Henry VII. he paid his devoirs so successfully to Fox, bishop of Winchester, and sir Thomas Lovel, that the king employed him upon a negociation with the Emperor Maximilian, which gave him ample opportunity of displaying his political abilities; and his promptitude in this husiness fixing this shrewd monarch's attention, he was immediately rewarded with the deanery of Lincoln, and the prehends of Walton, Brinhold, and Stow. In 1509, Henry being succeeded hy his son Henry VIII. the bishop of Winchester, Wolsey's firm friend, introduced him to his new master, merely to remove the earl of Surrey's ascendancy. Wolsey was immediately employed, and almost at once became the favourite, the prime minister, and pander to the king's unlawful pleasures.

The cardinal was also avaricious, and was permitted to unite with the see of York the bishopries of Durham and Winchester, and the rich Abbey of St. Albans; and the Pope observing that, in fact, he governed the nation, with the view of engaging his interest in favour of the Vatican, 1515, completed his exaltation hy creating him cardinal of St. Cecile beyond the Tiber. On the death of Pope Leo, he even aspired to the Papal dominion, and again when Adrian VI. died: hut failed in hoth attempts.

In the affair of the king's divorce from Catharine, having refused to wade any further, he fell under the king's displeasure. In October 1529, he, for the last time, proceeded in his usual state to open the court of chancery. The dukes of Norfolk and Suffolk came to his house at Westminster, and in the king's name demanded the great seal, ordering him at the same time to retire to his house at Esher. Here, notwithstanding his expectations of the return of the royal favour, he continued three weeks without either beds, table cloths, or dishes to eat out of. The king, however, after restoring some of his property, ordered him to retire to the north. At length, the arrest of his person being determined upon, the earl of Northumberland was sent for this purpose from London to Cawood, and sir William Kingston arrived to convey the cardinal to the Tower, when he was scarcely ahle to walk across his chamber. By slow stages reaching Leicester ahbey, when the whole convent came into court to meet him, he only said, "Father ahbot, I come to lay my hones among you." A few days after he expired, some suppose by poison, deeply regretting in his last moments that he had not served God with the same fidelity he had served the king.

Striking remains of his magnificent taste in architecture are still extant at Ipswich, and especially in his palace at Hampton Court; even the water for this was conducted by leaden pipes across the bed of the Thames, from a fine spring in Surrey.

DR. DARWIN.

THIS eccentric poet and physician was a native of Elton, near Newark, in Nottinghamshire, in December 1731. After going through a school education, under the Rev. Mr. Burrows, at Chesterfield, he was sent to St. John's college, Cambridge, and continued there till he took his bachelor's degree in medicine, when he went to Edinburgh. Having obtained that of doctor, he began his practice at Litchfield. Succeeding in this, he married Miss Howard, the daughter of a respectable inhabitant, and by this lady had three sons, who lived to the age of manhood. In 1781, having married a second wife, he removed to Derby, where he continued to reside till the period of his death, in April 1802, in the seventieth year of his age. His second lady, with six children, were left to lament his loss. To his greatest praise, one of his biographers observes, "The doctor was not famous for holding religious subjects in veneration; but, however sceptical he might have heen in his belief, he exhibited in his conduct, what is more beneficial to the world than the tenacious adherence to any speculative opinions—firm integrity and a benevolent heart. Professional generosity distinguished his medical practice. Diligently did he attend to the health of the poor at Litchfield and Derby, supplied their necessities by food and every kind of charitable assistance. In each of these places his was the cheerful board of almost open-housed hospitality, without extravagance or parade, ever deeming the first unjust, the latter unmanly; generosity, wit, and science, were his household gods." The doctor was of an athletic make, much pitted with the small-pox, and stammered considerably in speaking. The uninterrupted state of health which he enjoyed until towards the conclusion of his life, he attributed to his temperate mode of living, particularly to his moderation in the use of fermented liquors. Miss Seward gives him the credit of having introduced habits of sobriety among the trading part of Litchfield: his faculties also remained unimpaired to the last.

Though a votary to the muses, and a contribntor to one or the other of the monthly publications, his Botanic Garden, in which he celebrates what he calls Loves of the Plants, published in 1781, was the first of his poems to which he put his name. This poem was so amply furnished with notes, containing the natural history and property of plants, that it did not seem very inconsistent with his profession, and was for some years extremely popular: but an ingenious little poem, called The Loves of the Triangles, published in a monthly journal, being a happy imitation of the doctor's manner, is thought to have contribnted to its parent's decline.

In 1798, Dr. Darwin published the first volume of Zoonomia, or the Laws of Organic Life; and, in 1796, the second. As the eccentric genius of the author was known, great expectations were formed of this work, the labour as it was said of twenty years. Its object was to reform the whole system of medicine, professing to account for the physical constitution of man, animals, and vegetables. In 1804, he published Phytologia, or the Philosophy of Agriculture and Gardening, which excited but little interest; but still less attention was paid to a small tract on Female Education, according to Miss Seward, a meagre work of little general interest, those rules excepted which are laid down for the preservation of health.

Mr. Charles Darwin, who died at Edinburgh in May 1778, had a gold medal assigned to him for discovering a test to distinguish pus from mucus. Mr. Darwin left an unfinished Essay on the retrograde motion of the absorbent vessels of animal bodies; which his father published some time after, with the Dissertation, for which his son had obtained the prize-medal before mentioned.

Holl. sculp

GAY.

THIS cotemporary with Pope, Swift, and other celebrated geniusses, was the descendant of an ancient family that had long been in possession of the manor of Goldworthy, in Devonshire, and was born in 1688, at or near Barnstaple. Being sent to the school of that town, a little before be retired from it he published a volume of Latin and English Poems; but, having no hereditary riches, he was sent to London, and apprenticed to a silk mercer. Here, it seems, he soon became weary of the restraint, or what he might deem the servility, of his situation; however, his master was easily persuaded to release him from any obligation, and in 1712 he got into the service of the duchess of Monmouth as her secretary. The year following he published his Rural Sports, and inscribed it to Mr. Pope, then rising fast into reputation. Pope, when he became acquainted with Gay, found such attractions in his manners and conversation, that a friendship was formed between them, which lasted till their separation by death. In the following year he published The Shepherds' Week, six English pastorals, in which the images are drawn from real life, as it appears in remote parts of England; and these pastorals were read as just representations of rural manners and occupations. In 1713 he brought out his comedy of the Wife of Bath; but as this received no applause, he printed it; and seventeen years after, having, as he supposed, adapted it more to the public taste, he again offered it for the stage; but had the mortification of seeing it rejected, even while he was flushed with the success of his Beggars' Opera. In the last year of Queen Anne, Gay was appointed secretary to the earl of Clarendon, ambassador to the court of Hanover.

In 1717, he brought out Three Weeks after Marriage, a comedy written to ridicule Dr. Woodward, the *Fossilist*, a man not really or justly contemptible: and the performers were driven off the stage. Gay, after this, falling into dejection, the earl of Burlington sent him into Devonshire, and the year after 1717 Mr. Pulteney took him to Aix: in the following year lord Harcourt invited him to his seat, where, during his visit, two rural lovers were killed with lightning; the particulars of which are related in Pope's Letters. In 1720, he published his poems by subscription with such success, that he raised a thousand pounds; but afterwards engaging in a dangerous speculation in the South Sea scheme, he was again reduced so low, that his life was in danger. Being again restored to health, his awkwardness and simplicity exposed him to the laugh of the town, on account of his falling down and overturning a screen, when sent for to read the play of the Captives before the princess of Wales and her attendants. In 1726, he wrote Fables for the young duke of Cumberland. In 1727, having refused the offer of being made gentleman usher to the princess Louisa, all the interest of his friends to move the court in his favour after this proved unavailing.—All the pain, however, which he suffered from the neglect of the court is supposed to have been driven away by the unexampled success of the Beggars' Opera. Besides being acted in London sixty-three days without interruption, and renewed the next season with equal applause, it spread into all the great towns of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. Ladies' fans, and the screens in the houses, bore the favorite songs of this opera, and even the person who performed Polly was raised from obscurity. Gay, too much elated by this success, produced a second part, under the title of Polly; but this the lord Chamberlain very properly refused to licence: but for this hardship he found a recompense in the affectionate attention of the duke and duchess of Queensberry, into whose house he was taken. He died of a violent fit of the cholic, in December 1732, and was buried in Westminster Abbey, where his generous patrons erected a monument to his memory.

BISHOP PORTEUS.

THIS great and pious prelate was born at York, on the 8th of May 1731. His father and mother were natives of Virginia; the name of the latter was Jennings, and she was said to be distantly related to Sarah Jennings, wife to John duke of Marlborough: her father, colonel Jennings, was the first of the family who settled in Virginia, and for some time acted as deputy-governor of the colony. Mr. Porteus, after having been several years at school at York, was placed at Ripon, under Mr. Hyde, and at an earlier age than is usually the case now, was sent to Christ's College, Cambridge, and admitted a sizar. His attention while he continued an under graduate was directed chiefly to mathematical studies; but, taking his bachelor's degree in 1752, he became a successful candidate for one of the gold medals distributed as the reward of classical literature, instituted by the duke of Newcastle. Being elected fellow of the college in the spring of the same year, he became a resident in Cambridge. At the age of 26 he took orders, and was ordained deacon at Buckden, in 1757, by the bishop of Lincoln. On his return to the university, he obtained the reward proposed for Mr. Seaton's prize poem;—the subject being "Death," the recent demise of his father had rendered it congenial with his feelings. Early in 1762, he was appointed by archbishop Secker, one of his domestic chaplains, and in the course of that year quitted college to reside at Lambeth. Whilst in this capacity he was made the purveyor of his lordship's kind offers to assist Peter Annet, in Newgate, who had been exposed to the pillory for denying the authority of Moses. In May 1765, Mr. Porteus married Margaret, eldest daughter of Brian Hodgson, esq. of Ashbourne, in Derbyshire; and in the course of the same year he was presented by the archbishop to the two small livings of Rucking and Wittersham, in Kent, which he soon resigned for the rectory of Hunton, in the same county, in addition to a prebend at Peterborough.

Upon the death of Dr. Denne, in 1767, he obtained the rectory of Lambeth, and soon after this, took his degree of Doctor in Divinity. In August 1768, upon the death of archbishop Secker, Dr. Porteus became one of his executors; and to this primate's lectures on the catechisms, sermons, &c. he prefixed a Review of the Archbishop's Life and Character. At Hunton he zealously performed the duties of his parish. In his attention to the poor he was uniform and indefatigable; and consequently he had the happiness to see his church well filled with a congregation neat and decent in their attire, with looks cheerful and satisfied.

In December 1776, Dr. Porteus kissed the king's hand on his promotion to the see of Chester. Upon the death of Dr. Lowth, in November 1787, Dr. Porteus was translated from the diocese of Chester to that of London; and, on the 23d of April 1789, in obedience to the king's express command, he preached at St. Paul's on the day of thanksgiving for his majesty's recovery. In February 1798, he commenced his Friday's lectures at St. James's, Westminster, which were attended beyond any example.

Upon the whole, after a life spent in doing good, he expired at his palace, at Fulham, without a pang or a sigh, on the 13th of May 1809; and, in obedience to his express directions, his corpse was removed to Sundridge, and there interred in a vault in the churchyard. The bishop was under the middle size, of a thin and a slender frame, and in his youth is supposed to have been very handsome. In politics he constantly voted with Mr. Pitt, though his religious sentiments were always tolerant; and as a preacher his reputation stood deservedly high. His works, complete, in six volumes octavo, have been published since his decease, with a portrait of his lordship, from an original picture.

JOHN EVELYN.

THIS interesting personage, the author of Sylva, &c. lived in the busy and important times from the commencement of the reign of Charles the first, till the end of that of king William. He was born at Wooton, in Surrey, in October 1620. Though his father was a man of considerable fortune, it is remarkable that the first rudiments of Mr. Evelyn's education were acquired from the village school, over the porch of Wooton church. In 1625, he was sent by his father to Lewes, in Sussex, to his grandfather Standsfield, with whom he passed his childhood. He was next removed to the free-school at Southover, near Lewes, where he remained till he was sent to the university. In Feb. 1636, he was admitted at the middle temple, London, though absent at school. In 1637, he became a fellow commoner of Baliol college, Oxford. In 1640, he came to reside in the middle temple. In 1641, after the death of his father, he went to Holland, and thence proceeded to Paris, Fontainbleau, and afterwards to Italy, Rome, Naples, &c.

In 1646, he married Mary, the daughter of sir Richard Browne, ambassador at Paris. In the beginning of 1648, he returned to England; and, in September 1661, presented his "Fumifugium, or a prophetic Invective against Fire and Smoke," to his majesty Charles II. In 1662, he was admitted and sworn of the council of the royal society; and soon after delivered his discourse concerning forest trees. In 1664, he published his Sylva; and, in 1665, having sent away his family, he remained in London the whole time of the plague, during a part of which period near 10,000 persons died weekly, exerting and exposing himself to the utmost, without fear. He was scarcely less active in the great fire in 1666.

Mr. Evelyn was much attached to the monarchy. On the Restoration he was frequently at court, and took a very active part in the establishment of the royal society: through him they received as presents Mr. Howard's library and the Arundelian marbles. He was a commissioner of the sick and wounded; a most laborious office, but well adapted to a man of his integrity and humanity. Next to his Sylva, his History of the Dutch War, a work undertaken at the express command of king Charles II. would have been of great importance; but, after a considerable progress had been made in this, it was put a stop to by the king himself, it being supposed Mr. Evelyn was inclined to tell too much truth concerning a transaction, which, according to his Journal, he utterly reprobated. Of his Mystery of Jesuitism, three volumes were published in different years; but a bare list of Mr. Evelyn's publications would be too long for this sketch. Mr. Horace Walpole acknowledges, that "his life, which was extended to 86 years, was a course of inquiry, study, curiosity, instruction, and benevolence." To his honour, it is recorded, though steadily attached to the doctrine and practice of the church of England, he felt the most liberal sentiments for those who differed from him in opinion. He lived in intimacy with men of all persuasions. His Sylva was several times noticed by Charles II.; yet, when Mr. Evelyn applied for the office of inspector of the forests, it was refused and given to another person. This work he had the pleasure of knowing had been the occasion of the propagation of millions of useful timber trees throughout the kingdom, which were much wanting after the dreadful ravages of the civil war. Next to this, the works he caused to be published from the best architects of other countries, tended infinitely to the improvement of English workmen.

Mr. Evelyn's Journal is a copious register of the principal events of his life and times, and continued from 1624 till the beginning of 1706; when, his notes of the sermons he had heard at the chapel in the morning and afternoon of February 3d, conclude this diary; and after a short illness, he died on the 27th of the same month.

ROUSSEAU.

THIS distinguished sentimentalist, born at Geneva, in June 1712, was the son of a watch-maker in that city. At an early period of life he went into Italy, where he embraced the catholic religion. At Chamberri he afterwards taught music, formed a familiar acquaintance with madam de Warens; and, in 1741, proceeded to Paris, where he lived two years in indigence and obscurity. He first appeared in the republic of letters in consequence of obtaining the prize of the academy of Dijon, for his dissertation on the Origin of Society. Returning to Geneva to present this work to his native country, he then renounced the catholic, and embraced the protestant, religion.

His first musical attempt he acknowledged was detestable: his *Devin de Village*, or Village Conjurer, produced in 1752, enchanted the whole French people; but his Dictionary of Music is by no means worthy of its author. His Letter on French Music was a violent philippic; another Letter, which he published upon, or rather against, theatrical exhibitions, was the cause of a very considerable controversy in France. When he brought out his new Eloisa in 1761, it was read with singular avidity; the brilliancy of its style and the seductive strain of its sentiments endowed it with a general attraction. His Emilius created a still greater sensation; but, being compelled to fly from France in consequence of this work, he first took refuge in his own country; but, being expelled from thence, he wandered into Switzerland. Stoned at Neufchatel, rejected at Geneva and Berne, he sought, in 1766, an asylum in England, under the protection of the celebrated David Hume, who obtained him the promise of a pension. His pride, egotism, and excessive sensibility, led him to despise this mode of provision; consequently, having shamefully abused his benefactor, he quitted England with disgust.

In 1770, he returned to Paris, promised to write nothing more on religion and government, and devoted himself to transcribing music, and the study of botany. However, his unsocial temper increasing with his age, he resolved to quit Paris, and seclude himself from society. In 1778 he accepted the benevolent invitation of the Marquis de Girardin; and retired to that nobleman's beautiful estate of Ermenonville. The public for some time persisted that Rousseau shortened his own days by poison. It is nevertheless certain, that during his stay in England, and ever since his return to France, he was subject to frequent fits of melancholy, accompanied with an extraordinary kind of convulsions. Soured by misfortunes which he had mostly brought upon himself, he was still more tormented by the teasings of a wife, who, in order to preserve a complete ascendancy over his mind, contrived to keep his best friends at a distance from him. He had taken it into his head, that a powerful league was formed against him at Paris, under the Duke de Choiseul, Dr. Tronchin, M. D'Alembert, &c. No one was in too humble a situation to be the object of his suspicion. He seldom went out of his house without imagining he met people posted about as spies ready to seize or stone him; even the shoe-blacks at the corners of the streets, he thought, refused to do that office for him, which they courted from every body else: on objects unconnected with his mania, his mind preserved its usual energy.

He died at Ermenonville, at the age of 66. He had for some years been occupied in compiling a Dictionary of Botany. His celebrated Confessions, which he designed as a posthumous publication, exhibit this romantic genius in all his shades of colouring. His port-folio, with several unpublished pieces, was for some time in the hands of M. du Peyron, of Neufchatel.

LORD ANSON.

THIS illustrious seaman, the youngest son of William Anson, esq. was born at Shuckborough, in Staffordshire, in 1700. Having very early discovered a partiality for the sea service, he received the education necessary for that profession; and, after passing through the subordinate stations of midshipman and lieutenant with credit and reputation, he was promoted to the rank of commander of the Weazle sloop in 1722; and on the 1st of February 1723–4, he was advanced to the rank of captain, and appointed to the Scarborough frigate. In 1731 he was captain of the Diamond of 40 guns, and in 1737 appointed to the Centurion of 60, and sent as commanding officer with a distinguishing pendant to the coast of Africa.

On the eve of a rupture with Spain, he was appointed to command a squadron with a body of land forces under colonel Bland, upon an expedition against the Manillas, which was however suddenly and unaccountably abandoned. In the following year, with a very small squadron, he took the town of Paita, in Spanish America, where the treasure was considerable. After this, notwithstanding the excessive weakness of his crews, he proceeded in quest of the Manilla ship, and learnt by some prisoners that this rich prize, then taking in her lading at Acapulco, would certainly depart on the 3rd of March; the alarm of the Spaniards, however, had caused them to delay the sailing of this vessel till next year. On the 19th of April, 1743, the commodore sailed from Macao, and on the 20th of June was so fortunate as to fall in with the galleon expected, when an action commenced between that and the Centurion within pistol shot, and continued an hour and a half, when, the galleon striking her colours, 1,313,843 pieces of eight were found on board, and 35,682 ounces of virgin silver and plate. On the 15th of May following, the Centurion arrived in safety at Spithead. Eight days after this the commodore was promoted to the rank of rear-admiral of the blue. In December 1744 he was appointed one of the lords of the admiralty, and chosen member of parliament for the borough of Heydon, in Yorkshire.

Promotion now flowed rapidly upon him; in 1745 he was advanced to be rear-admiral of the white, and in July 1746, vice-admiral of the blue. In 1747, off Cape Finisterre, he defeated a French squadron, capturing their admiral, six ships of war, and four East Indiamen, &c.: on this account he was raised to the peerage. On the death of sir John Norris in 1749, he was appointed vice-admiral of Great Britain. In 1758 being then admiral of the white, lord Anson hoisted his flag on board the Royal George 100 guns, and, with sir Edward Hawke, covered the unsuccessful descents made by the duke of Marlborough and commodore Howe at St. Maloes, Cherburgh, &c. The last service performed by lord Anson was his sailing from Harwich in 1761, to convoy the present queen from Germany; when he landed his royal passenger at the same port in the following September.

His lordship died at his seat, Moor Park, Hertfordshire, on June 6, 1762. In his natural disposition lord Anson was calm, cool, and unassuming; but, being frequently a dupe at play, it was wittily observed of him, "that he had been round the world, but never in it." Of lord Anson's voyage round the world, four large impressions were sold off in a twelvemonth, and it was translated into almost all the languages of Europe. It was composed under his lordship's own inspection, from the materials which he furnished, by Mr. Benjamin Robins, a man of great eminence as a mathematician, although it bears the name of Mr. Walters, chaplain of the Centurion.

DR. GOLDSMITH.

THIS charming poet and eccentric genius was a native of Ireland, being born at Roscommon, in the year 1729. Oliver Goldsmith, being intended by his father for the church, was sent to Trinity college, Dublin, where, in 1749, he obtained the degree of bachelor of arts. Having afterwards turned his thoughts to physic, in 1751, he went to Edinburgh; but, indiscreetly becoming surety for a fellow student, he was soon under the necessity of leaving Scotland. Proceeding to Rotterdam, he went from thence to Louvain and Strasburgh. He afterwards accompanied an English gentleman, as his tutor, to Geneva.

During his continuance in Switzerland, he assiduously cultivated his poetical talent: hence, he sent his first sketch of The Traveller to his elder brother Henry, a clergyman in Ireland. In the mean while, being thrown on the world, Goldsmith visited Padua, Venice, Verona, and Florence: his curiosity at length being gratified, he arrived at Dover on his way to England in 1756. Having only a few halfpence left, it was with difficulty he reached the metropolis, where he applied, under a feigned name, to several apothecaries to be employed in the capacity of a journeyman; but his broad Irish accent and uncouth appearance only exposed him to ridicule, till a chemist in the city, commiserating his forlorn condition, took him into the laboratory. Here he was found by an old friend, who recommended him as an able assistant to an academy kept by Dr. Milner, a dissenting minister at Peckham. Here, as he did not remain long, it appeared that he had been meditating the prosecution of his literary labours; for, in 1759, he published his Inquiry into the Present State of Polite Literature in Europe; a piece called The Bee; and occasionally contributed during eight months to the Monthly Review, for which he received in return, by formal agreement, his board and lodging, and a handsome salary, from Mr. Griffiths.

He next conducted the Lady's Magazine for Mr. Wilkie, and was the author of The Citizen of the World, which originally appeared under the title of The Chinese Letters, in the Public Ledger.

Goldsmith having now become an author by profession, his Traveller, his Vicar of Wakefield, his Good-natured Man, She Stoops to Conquer, his Deserted Village, and various other productions, rendered him uncommonly popular. He was, besides, the friend, or rather the butt, of Johnson, Garrick, &c. and a member of the celebrated literary club. But, though he received large profits from his writings, he was extremely deficient in economy; and, continuing addicted to gaming without being acquainted with its mysteries, he easily became the prey of the artful and designing; yet his liberality was such, particularly to his distressed countrymen, that he was often known to leave himself without a guinea. Sir Joshua Reynolds was of opinion, that Goldsmith owed no less than 2000*l.*! "Was ever poet so trusted before?" He would sometimes give away his whole breakfast to poor housekeepers, saying, with a smile, after they were gone, "Now let me suppose I have eaten a heartier meal than usual, and am nothing out of pocket."

He died in April 1774, in the forty-fifth year of his age, after taking Dr. James's fever powder, contrary to the advice of his physician; and was interred in the Temple burying ground. A monument, executed by Nollekens, was erected for him in Westminster-abbey, at the expense of the literary club; consisting of a large medallion and a good resemblance of the doctor in profile, with an inscription written by Dr. Johnson, upon a tablet of white marble, and appropriate ornaments.

GRAY.

THOMAS GRAY, who has been characterised as the British Pindar, was born in Cornhill, London, in December 1716. His grandfather was a considerable merchant; but his father Philip, a money scrivener, is stated to have been of an indolent and brutal temper. He received his grammatical education at Eton school, under Mr. Antrobus, his mother's brother; and here he contracted a particular intimacy with Horace Walpole, afterwards earl of Orford; and Richard West, son of the chancellor of Ireland.

Upon leaving Eton, he entered as a pensioner at Peterhouse college, Cambridge, of which his uncle was a fellow. At this university, he renounced the severity of mathematical studies in favour of classical literature: the first original production of his muse was addressed to his beloved West, who had some months before left Christ-church for the Inner Temple; and, with Gray, was destined to pursue the study of the law. From this, Gray was diverted by an invitation to accompany Mr. Horace Walpole on his travels: they accordingly set out together; and, in April 1741, left Florence for Venice, where an unhappy feud, caused by the difference of their tempers, separated them during their stay abroad; but, in the year 1744, a reconciliation was effected between them by a lady, a well-wisher to both.

Gray's father being dead, finding his patrimony too scanty to permit him to prosecute his law-studies, he took a bachelor's degree at Cambridge: here he principally resided; and, as Dr. Johnson has remarked, "without liking the place or its inhabitants, or pretending to like them, passed, except a short residence at London, the rest of his life."

On the death of his friend West weighed down by sickness and family misfortunes, in 1742, Gray is supposed to have begun, if not completed, his Elegy written in a Country Church-yard; which, when printed in 1750, rapidly ran through eleven editions. Gray's Ode on the distant Prospect of Eton College, and his Hymn to Adversity, bear sufficient indications of his deep regret for his lost associate. Those sublime effusions, the Bard and the Progress of Poetry, appeared in 1757.

Some time after this, he removed from Cambridge to Southampton-row, London, for the purpose of being near the British Museum at its opening. Here he passed three years in reading and transcribing. Having refused the appointment of poet-laureat, he afterwards obtained from the duke of Grafton, without solicitation, the professorship of modern history in the university of Cambridge. On this occasion, when his noble patron was installed chancellor, he wrote the Ode for music.

In July 1772, after many symptoms of declining health, he died at Cambridge of the gout.—Gray's poetry is sublime, fervid, and elegant; and he communicates the most exalted enthusiasm. The most complete edition of Gray's works, in every respect, was published by Mr. Matthias in 1815.

Of his Elegy in particular, the subject, like that of Milton's immortal Epic, is universally interesting, the allegory sublime, the natural description picturesque, and the numbers matchlessly melodious. Even Johnson admits, "that it abounds with images which find a mirror in every mind, and with sentiments to which every breast returns an echo."

On his monument in Westminster Abbey are the following lines by his friend Mason:

No more the Grecian muse unrivall'd reigns,—
To Britain let the nations homage pay;
She boasts a Homer's fire in Milton's strains,
A Pindar's rapture in the lyre of Gray.

LORD BOLINGBROKE.

THIS noble, philosophical, and political author, the friend of Pope, &c. was born at Battersea, in Surrey, in 1678. His mother dying young, he passed his infancy under his grandmother, whose spiritual guide was the celebrated presbyterian, Daniel Burgess, but the impression which young Bolingbroke received from this circumstance, was a rooted aversion to that austere party. At a proper age he was sent to Eton School, and thence removed to Christ-church, Oxford. In both these places his genius and understanding won him the admiration of his contemporaries. United with the graces of a handsome person, his manner and address were irresistibly engaging; he had a quick apprehension, great strength of memory, peculiar subtlety in reasoning, and a masterly elocution; but for some years all these endowments were lavished in finishing the character of a complete rake: he was, however, the friend and protector of Dryden in his declining years, and prefixed a copy of verses to his translation of Virgil in 1697.

His first wife was the daughter and coheiress of sir Henry Winchescomb, of Bucklebury, Berks. In 1700 he made his appearance in the house of commons as member for Wooton Basset, in Wilts. In 1704, having attached himself to Harley's party, he was appointed secretary at war, and of the marines. Upon Harley's removal from the seals, in 1707, Bolingbroke, following his friend's fortune, resigned his employments. In the parliament of 1708 he had no seat; but in 1710, Harley being appointed chancellor and under secretary, St. John was appointed to the important office of secretary of state. He sustained almost the whole weight of the difficulties in the peace of Utrecht; and in 1712 was created baron St. John of Lydiard Tregoze, in Wiltshire, and viscount Bolingbroke, and in the same year appointed lord lieutenant of the county of Essex. He at length formed the design of supplanting his old friend Harley, then earl of Oxford, in the management of public affairs, a project which in the issue proved unfortunate for them both, though Bolingbroke lived to discover that Oxford "had no friendship for any body."

After Bolingbroke's exile to France he accepted the office of secretary under the Pretender; but the year 1715 had scarcely expired, when the seals and papers of his new office were taken from him. To make his peace at home, through the mediation of lord Stair, who declared himself perfectly convinced of his sincerity, he procured a conditional promise of pardon. In 1717 he married his second wife, widow of the marquis de Villette, and with her passed his time in France till 1723, when his majesty granted him a full pardon and he returned to England. Ruffled by disappointments in public life, he again retired to France in 1735, but returned upon the death of his father in 1742, and settled at Battersea, the ancient seat of his family, where he died in November 1751, on the verge of fourscore: his remains were interred in the parish church at that place.

Lord Bolingbroke is chiefly to be admired for his profound knowledge of history, his grand ideas, and his bold and manly eloquence. The latter lord Chesterfield called, "not studied or laboured, but a flowing happiness of diction," which became so familiar to him, that his ordinary conversation might have been printed without the least correction. However, he could ill brook a superior, and was little scrupulous in the pursuit of power, or the gratification of resentment.

Mallet, who was entrusted with the care of lord Bolingbroke's manuscripts, published one volume quarto in 1754, and four more in the following year. An Analysis of his lordship's Philosophical Works, composed by the late unfortunate earl Ferrers, was also published in a small size in 1760.

SIR WALTER RALEIGH.

THIS unfortunate ornament of his country was born at Hayes farm, in the parish of Budley, Devonshire, in 1552. As a gentleman commoner of Oriel college, Oxford, he distinguished himself by his application; and, after remaining a short time, in 1569 he became one of the troop of a hundred gentlemen volunteers, whom queen Elizabeth permitted to go to France for the assistance of the Protestants: Raleigh did not return till the end of the year 1575.

In 1578, he served under the prince of Orange against the Spaniards. Soon after this, he had an opportunity of trying his fortune at sea with his half-brother, sir Humphry Gilbert. In 1580, he was actively employed in quelling the Irish insurgents, and had a captain's commission under lord Grey de Wilton. On his return home, being introduced at court, he gained the favour of queen Elizabeth by an act of gallantry: the queen, whilst walking, had reached a marshy spot, which she hesitated to cross; when Raleigh, with admirable presence of mind, instantly spread his rich cloak on the ground, and the queen, smiling, passed over.

In 1583, he engaged in a second expedition to Newfoundland, with his brother Gilbert; but was obliged to return to port by the breaking out of a contagious disorder among the whole crew. Queen Elizabeth having patronised Raleigh's design of settling a colony in Virginia, in April 1585 he despatched several fleets successively to that quarter; but the apprehensions of a Spanish invasion, in 1588, prevented the sailing of supplies, and retained sir Walter at home, who performed essential service in destroying the armada. In 1589, he sailed with Antonio of Portugal and the armament intended for his restoration; and on his return he brought Spenser, the poet, from Ireland, whom he introduced at court. About 1593, he married Elizabeth, the beautiful daughter of sir Nicholas Throgmorton, and one of the queen's maids of honour; and in 1594 his eldest son Walter was born.

After the death of queen Elizabeth, Raleigh was so far from being a favorite with her successor James I. that this prince left him exposed to all the machinations of his enemies. In November 1603, he was accused and tried at Winchester for having projected the advancement of lady Arabella Stuart to the crown: being found guilty, he remained in prison twelve years, as the court durst not proceed to execution. His final release was an act of gross dissimulation in James, who employed him in an expedition against the Spaniards, and afterwards discovered it to Gondemar, the Spanish ambassador. To effect his destruction, it was resolved to pass judgement upon him in pursuance of his conviction on the charge of a conspiracy fifteen years before! He was taken out of bed, labouring under a severe fit of the ague, and so brought to the bar of the Court of King's Bench, and the next day after he had received his sentence was beheaded, at the age of 60, in Old Palace Yard, Westminster; exhibiting on this occasion a degree of fortitude almost to indifference. His History of the World is to this day respected by the ablest critics. He also wrote several miscellaneous pieces in prose, chiefly political, and some poems, published collectively by Dr. Birch in 1751.

This illustrious man was at once a scholar, a statesman, a navigator, and a soldier; and his fate will long remain a blot upon the reign of the pedant under whom he suffered.

EARL OF BUTE.

THIS memorable statesman was born in 1713, and completed his education at the college of Christ-church, Oxford. Having been generally esteemed a particular favourite of his present majesty and the princess dowager of Wales, previous to his accession to the crown, the influence of this nobleman upon the administration of affairs at the commencement of the present reign was no longer doubtful, as he was sworn a member of the privy council on the 27th of October 1760, two days only having intervened since that monarch's decease. After a short period the rangership of Richmond Park was taken from the princess Amelia and bestowed upon the earl of Bute; the resignation of the duke of Newcastle and the retreat of Mr. Pitt from office soon followed. It was not till March 1761 that the earl of Bute actually took the seals upon the resignation of lord Holderness, who accepted of the wardenship of the Cinque Ports. The celebrated Charles Jenkinson, afterwards lord Hawkesbury, was appointed his under secretary.

In June 1762 war was declared against Spain; which, being crowned with the greatest success, tended to reconcile the public mind to the earl of Bute's administration. Peace with France and Spain was scarcely concluded in January 1763, when the nation was astonished with the intelligence of the resignation of the minister, who having as he boasted restored peace to the world, was now determined, by retiring "to the blessings of the life he loved," to demonstrate that ministerial greatness had for him no charms. Little credit, however, was given by the public at large to professions of moderation and disinterestedness, so inconsistent with those measures of alternate artifice and violence, by which this minister attained the summit of that power and greatness to which he now pretended a philosophical indifference. Conscious that he was, justly or unjustly, the object of general abhorrence, that his partiality to his countrymen was gross and palpable, &c. it is certain that he had neither the fortitude nor ability to resist the current of public opinion. He was succeeded as first commissioner of the treasury by Mr. George Grenville, brother to earl Temple; though there cannot be any doubt that he was long consulted, particularly in forming other administrations, after his own had terminated.

His lordship has been panegyrised as a friend to learning; and the good offices he performed for sir John Hill, appointed through him the king's gardener at Kew, with the pension granted to the celebrated Dr. Samuel Johnson, have been mentioned as instances of it. Much more justly however was the earl of Bute esteemed as the Mæcenas of Natural History. His own botanical work on the *Genera* of British Plants is certainly unique in its kind. These have been arranged after a new system invented by himself, and disposed in tables, with characters so exact and striking, that, aided by the plates which gave the features of each genus, the knowledge of the British Plants may be easily attained. This work was designed for, and dedicated to, her most gracious majesty the queen. The drawings and engravings were by the famous Miller. The work amounted to several thousand pounds, and only twelve copies were printed off, when the plates were destroyed. With these, her majesty and a few persons of distinction only were supplied; and a copy is at present in the possession of Dr. Thornton, author of "The Temple of Flora and Philosophy of Botany." It may be said to have been printed upon slips rather than upon pages, which are of different lengths to the extent of twelve feet, calculated to fold or unfold, when the plates may be laid beside them.

The earl, having retired to his beautiful seat at Luton, in Bedfordshire, paid the debt of nature in March 1792.

MORLAND.

GEORGE MORLAND, the pupil of his father, Robert Morland, an indifferent portrait-painter, &c. was born in 1764; and at a very early period exhibited so strong an inclination to painting, that he very soon surpassed his teacher and assisted in the maintenance of his family, then involved in poverty.

The parents of Morland being people of irregular habits, and obliged to labour as they could for a certain supply of bread, the young artist was soon initiated into the arcana of the public house, the gin-shop, and the stable. In these abodes of low life and misery, he unfortunately made his selection of existence, and of study. Though so far irregular; yet, aided by a natural power to perceive the beauties of colour, and having acquired by his early practice a ready hand in the exercise of his pencil, he produced a number of works possessing very striking beauties. His favourite subjects were, the interior of stables, pig-sties, farm-yards, doors of public houses, &c. These he touched with great freedom and ease, and frequently with very beautiful colour. Some of his smaller pictures of pigs wallowing, or surrounded by young ones playing or sucking, are master-pieces of their kind. The agreeable hue he gave to them, and the familiarity of his subjects, procured him considerable employment, but which only administered to the means of dissipation, in which he unhappily indulged too much; and so far surpassed those means, that he fell in debt and underwent his first confinement in the king's bench prison. Here his talents were laid under contribution by frame-makers, picture-dealers, and others, who, meanly taking advantage of his weak addiction to liquor, indulged both his caprice and his wants, taking in return the ingenious productions of his pencil. These they sold again to great profit; and, when some of them, more speculative than the rest, released bim from imprisonment, it was only to immerse him in a private house, and take to themselves all the benefit of his labours, by concealing his place of residence from the knowledge of the world.

It could not be expected that the vital spark could long be preserved under such a mode of existence as tbis: he consequently fell into decay at an age, when, in men of better conduct, the physical and mental powers are in a state of vigour and maturity. A premature dissolution closed his mortal career in October 1804, in the fortieth year of his age. Tbus, taste and all its sensibilities; genius, with all its vivacity; talent, and all its opportunities to enrich the possessor; were lost or exchanged for disgusting eccentricities, gross licentiousness, and vicious indulgences.

Morland died in the very extreme of wretchedness, penury, and distress; a striking example that no abilities, nor even the high qualities of an artist, will ever shield the possessor from misery, unless accompanied by that prudence, temperance, and integrity, which can only ensure respect, esteem, and admiration.

Had Morland been born under more favourable circumstances, it is not improbable that a liberal cultivation of his mind would bave enabled him to succeed in a more exalted taste of subjects than those he fixed upon; to which his early associations, no doubt, were the guide: but the fatal influence of low propensities was never more strongly marked than in his case. In fact, so much are we the creatures of habit, tbat it requires rather more than a usual supply of the reasoning powers, or of fortunate incidents, to draw our affections from the scenes of youthful life; or lead us to see the folly even of vice, when exhibited in the examples of those who surrround us from the cradle.

FREDERICK LORD NORTH.

THIS celebrated premier of England during the American war, was born in April 1732; and succeeded his father in the estates and title of the earl of Guildford in 1790. His lordship was one of those characters, whose private life, had it been still less obscure or retired, would have been concealed in the splendour and importance of his public character. Endowed with great abilities, natural and acquired, he figured in the house of commons 'till 1767, when he succeeded the honourable Charles Townshend, as chancellor of the exchequer; his knowledge of business was extensive, and his integrity unimpeached. Upon the resignation of the duke of Grafton in 1770, he became first lord of the treasury, and continued in this station nearly throughout the American war. Though, as prime minister, his lordship's measures had been long and ably supported, the first symptoms of his declining influence were observed in consequence of the loan he proposed in 1781, when his terms to the holders were by several of his friends declared to be extremely high. In the house of lords his plan was vigorously opposed by lord Rockingham, the duke of Portland, and several other peers. At length, in 1782, just as sir John Rous was about to rise in the commons, lord North, addressing the speaker, said, that as he understood the earl of Surry's motion to be the removal of ministers, he wished to prevent the necessity of further trouble by an explicit declaration, "That His Majesty had come to a determination to make an entire change in the administration," and that he and his colleagues only retained their official situations 'till other ministers were appointed to occupy their places. He then thanked the house for the indulgence he had experienced from them in the discharge of his duty, and declared himself ready to answer to his country for his conduct, whenever he should be called upon for that purpose.

In January 1783, after the preliminary articles of peace were signed between Great Britain, France, and Spain, a circumstance occurred, which revived all the rancour formerly conceived against lord North, as the adviser of the American war; namely, his reconciliation with his most formidable opponent, the hon. Charles Fox. This coalition was esteemed by the public as one of the most unnatural ever entered into by any political characters. When this unexpected event first transpired in the house of commons, Mr. Fox, though he reprobated the peace, agreed with Mr. St. John, member for Bedford, not to vote for the punishment of those who made it. Mr. Fox, being accused of having formed an union with the noble lord, whose principles he had opposed for several years of his life, said, that as the American war, the grounds of their opposition, was removed, he did not conceive it honourable to keep up animosities for ever. He was happy at all times to have a proper opportunity to bury his resentments, and it was the wish of his heart that his friendships should never die. Yet this declaration was, by a very great part of the house, indignantly received, and it was called nothing less than a monstrous coalition. Lord North, no doubt elated by what had occurred, dared his enemies, whatever might be their influence and their character, to be decisive, and proceed against him! Though no investigation followed, the expression of the public opinion against the coalition ministry was such, as to effect their removal, especially as one of them had personally declared, "he would pursue, even to the scaffold, the authors of the public ruin;" and lord North was forced into a political obscurity, from which he never after emerged, though no man was ever more beloved in private life. His lordship paid the debt of nature on the 5th of August, 1792.

FENELON.

THIS truly illustrious prelate was born at the castle of Fenelon, in Perigord, in the province of Guienne, on the 9th of August 1651. When he was twelve years old, he was sent to the university of Cahors: he there completed his philosophical and philological studies. His uncle, the marquis de Fenelon, afterwards sent for him to Paris, and placed him in the college of Plessis, where he distinguished himself so much, that they suffered him to preach a sermon at the age of fifteen; but his uncle was rather alarmed than gratified by the encomiums consequently bestowed upon the young pupil. After having been refused entering upon a mission to Canada, for which his health was not adequate, he was ordained at St. Sulpice, and devoted himself to the performance of those functions, which gave him an opportunity of mixing with all ranks and conditions; and, in fact, of acquiring the knowledge of the various moral and physical ills which afflict human nature; and being appointed to explain the sacred writings to the people on Sundays and festival days, this first introduced him to public notice, of which he was afterwards the grateful object during the whole of his life.

After being appointed director of the Society of Nouvelles Catholiques, he became acquainted with the celebrated Bossuet, whose confidence and esteem he daily acquired. A Treatise on Female Education was his first work, which he undertook at the desire of a lady, who had several daughters; he afterwards drew up a very copious refutation of Malebranche's *Traité de la Nature, et de la Grace*, which was lost. Fenelon was next employed by Louis XIV. in one of those missions to several parts of the kingdom, intended to reconcile the suffering protestants to the Catholic faith. His next step to eminence was his appointment as preceptor to the duke of Burgundy, grandson to the king: for the instruction of this young prince, he wrote his Dialogues of the Dead.

He lived at court some years, without soliciting or receiving any preferment; though at length, in 1695, the King rewarded his merits with the Abbey of St. Valery; and, in a few months after, with the Archbishopric of Cambray. This situation he did not enjoy two years, in consequence, as it was alleged, of his having defended the mystical notions of Madam Guyon, a celebrated Quietist, but, in reality, this was more on account of his heresy in politics than religion!—As his "Adventures of Telemachus" was scarcely began to be printed at Paris, when the king, dreading it as a perpetual satire on his government, ordered the press to be stopped, it is easy to see that politics and not a want of orthodoxy was the rock of offence: Telemachus, however, was published soon after, and read all through Europe with the greatest avidity; and, though it completed the ruin of the archbishop at court, it rendered him famous throughout Europe. Nothing can place the character of Fenelon in a stronger light, than the esteem in which he was held by the contending armies. With the wounded French he filled his palace, and hired houses for those it could not contain. When Marlborough, Eugene, and Ormond, entered his diocese, they suffered no ravages to take place, and contended in shewing marks of attention and respect towards him.

This most amiable man, after acquitting himself of all the duties of his station, and leading a most exemplary life, died on the 7th of January 1715, in the 64th year of his age, after an illness of about six days.

D'Alembert, who remarks that there is a long dull Latin epitaph on his monument, gives the following: "Under this stone Fenelon reposes! Traveller, efface not by thy tears this Epitaph, that others may read it as well as thee."

CHAUCER.

GEOFFREY CHAUCER, the justly-esteemed father of English poetry, was a native of the city of London, and was born in 1328. He received his education at Cambridge, where, at the age of eighteen, he wrote his 'Court of Love.' After quitting the university, to complete his studies at Oxford, he travelled, and on his return from the continent, became a student of the Inner Temple. By his accomplishments he soon acquired the attention of several persons of distinction, by whose means he was introduced to the court of Edward III. to whom he became a page, shield bearer, &c.

In 1373, after Chaucer's marriage, he was employed by the king upon an embassy to the Doge of Genoa. He was soon after made comptroller to the customs; his income, being at that time considerable, enabled him to live, as he says, "with dignity in office, and hospitality among his friends," having almost £1000 per annum. Thus at ease, he wrote the most humourous of his tales, &c.

The liberty he took with the corruptions among the clergy, though it increased the number of his friends, multiplied his enemies in a much greater degree. The circumstance of his Tales, &c. being written at the instigation of his noble patron, the duke of Lancaster, could not protect him from monkish malignity. He was charged with favouring the cause of Wickliff, who wished to become a reformer; and the enemies of the Wickliffites had the address to implicate them with the government, as the authors of several popular commotions in the kingdom. This obliged Chaucer first to take refuge in Hainault, and then in Zealand. However, when necessity compelled him to return to England, he was thrown into prison, and treated with such rigour, that for the sake of his liberation, he was obliged to make a full disclosure of all he knew concerning his party. After the duke of Lancaster married Chaucer's wife's sister, he obtained a renewal of his pension of 40 marks a year, and the annual grant of a pipe of wine from the custom-house. Chaucer had occasionally resided at Woodstock, in a building known by the name of the square house; but at the age of 72, he retired to Dunnington castle, near Newbury. The year following, when Henry IV. was seated on the throne, Chaucer was again called to court; but, falling sick at London, he drew his last breath where he first saw the light, and was buried in Westminster abbey. His temper was a mixture of the gay, the modest, and the grave; but his writings have more sprightliness than his conversation.

His numerous works have often been edited since the time of Caxton to the present age. Dryden says of him, "As the father of English poetry, I hold him in the same degree of veneration as the Grecians held Homer, or the Romans Virgil. He is a perpetual fountain of good sense; learned in all sciences, and therefore speaks properly on all occasions."

By his wife Philippa he had two sons, Thomas and Lewis. Thomas was speaker of the house of commons in the reign of Henry IV.; and to Lewis he addressed his Astrolabe, one of the most learned of his performances. Some of his tales, as his 'Wife of Bath', &c. even coming through the hands of Pope, are rather too warmly coloured; but there is no doubt that if Chaucer's enemies had seen his 'Pilgrimage to Canterbury', and the ludicrous personages composing it, as recently represented by the engraver, they would have wanted no other plea than that, for the persecution of the poet.

GEORGE FOX.

THIS distinguished character, whom the truly-respectable Society of Friends have agreed, by mutual courtesy, to denominate their "honourable elder," was born in the year 1624, at Drayton, in Leicestershire. His parents, who were reputable, upright people, placed him as an apprentice to a person who dealt in leather and wool, under whom he was frequently employed in tending sheep, an occupation which proved very congenial to the retired, contemplative turn of mind which he early displayed, and afforded leisure for digesting a mission to which he at length conceived himself called. In the year 1647, he made his first public appearance as a religious teacher, clothed in a leathern dress, plain, mortified, and durable, for his travels. The adjoining counties of Derby and Nottingham were the first scene of his mission, and the leading topic of his preaching was to inculcate on his hearers the necessity of receiving, as the rule of their conduct, "the *inward* teachings of the Holy Spirit."

Fox, under what he conceived to be an impulse of duty, went into the parish-church of Nottingham, on the Lord's day; and, being dissatisfied with the sermon which he for a while listened to, he is said to have interrupted the preacher, and disturbed the congregation, for which he was committed to prison in 1649; and this proved the commencement of a series of privations and hardships, which, from this period, characterise the life of the first apostle of Quakerism. The principles and conduct of George Fox, in many respects so novel, and so abhorrent to all the ideas that then prevailed, often provoked the intolerance of the leading men of the day; but persecution has always been found favourable to the increase of the persecuted party. The blood of the martyrs has hitherto ever been the seed of the church; and it must be confessed that the patience, the perseverance, and the disinterestedness, of the early friends, were without any precedent, at least in this kingdom. Hence, the multitudes, in various parts of the country, particularly in Bristol, adopted the principles of Fox; and such was the rapid increase of this new sect, that Oliver Cromwell, whose eyes were every where, deemed it prudent to guard against any danger from this quarter, by extorting a promise from George Fox that he would not disturb his government! After that promise had been given, the Protector admitted Fox to an interview, when the preacher delivered some wholesome truths, which were received in a manner that reflects great honour on the conduct of the ruler of the country. The man who held the sceptre of Britain and the balance of Europe, with true magnanimity, allowed an obscure individual to remain covered in his presence. In 1681 George Fox and his wife were tried and convicted, upon their refusal of the payment of tithes. In the years 1667 and 1684, Fox paid a visit to Holland and other parts of the continent, and in the last instance passed several weeks in some of the United Provinces.

While Fox himself drank to the dregs of the bitter cup which the intolerance of the times had mingled for his new Society, he still laboured for its welfare with the courage of a lion, and the patience of a martyr, until death closed the scene of his labours and of his sufferings in 1690, in the 67th year of his age, not having been entirely incapacitated for public preaching till within a few days before his death. His writings, exclusive of some separate pieces not published a second time, make three volumes in folio. The first contains his Journal, printed in 1694; the second, a collection of his Epistles; and the third, his doctrinal Pieces.

SIR THOMAS MORE.

THOMAS MORE, the distinguished chancellor of his day, was born in 1480, in Milk-street, London. In 1497, he was sent to Canterbury-college, Oxford, where he remained two years, and then removed to Neid Inn, for the purpose of following the law. But, though he acquired great reputation at the bar, he suddenly retired to the Charter-house, where he resigned himself to devotion, and remained in seclusion four years.

In 1507, he married the eldest daughter of Mr. Colte, of Newhall, in Essex; when, taking a house in Bucklersbury, he resumed his practice of the law: but the circumstance that raised his reputation most, was his election as a member of the parliament summoned by Henry VII. His vigorous opposition to this monarch's demand of a large subsidy for the marriage of his eldest daughter, caused his father to be imprisoned in the Tower, and obliged Mr. More to decline the profession of the law, and live in retirement till the king's death. After this, such were the extent of his legal abilities, that he was made judge of the sheriff's court in 1510; and, before he was actually engaged in any concerns of government, was twice appointed, with the consent of Henry VIII. agent for the English merchants, in the causes litigated between them and the foreign merchants of the Steel-yard. His reputation increasing, about 1516 the king made him master of the requests, conferred on him the honour of knighthood, appointed him one of his privy council, and admitted him to the greatest personal familiarity.

In 1520, the treasurer of the exchequer dying, Henry, without any solicitation, conferred this office upon More; and, within three years afterwards, he was elected speaker of the house of commons. In 1528, he was appointed chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, twice employed jointly with Wolsey in foreign embassies, and admitted generally into such a high degree of favour, that his majesty would frequently call upon him at Chelsea, without any previous notice. None of the servants or favourites of Henry VIII. were ever treated with so much tenderness and good humour as More, during several years; and, notwithstanding his reluctance to the king's divorce from queen Katharine, he was appointed, with his friend Tonstal, in 1529, to negociate a peace between Henry, the emperor, and the king of France; and, in reward for these eminent services, on the disgrace of Wolsey, he received the great seal.

That More was a lover of the polite arts is inferred from his familiarity with Erasmus, and his patronage of Hans Holbein, whom he retained in his house till he had painted the portraits of all the family. However, though rigidly just, it is allowed that he indulged such a spirit of persecution in religion, that he caused the rack to be used in his presence, and otherwise tortured a young woman. In defence of the Roman faith, he wrote several books, filled with virulence against the advocates of the Reformation. After having possessed the great seal above two years and a half, his resignation was reluctantly accepted. Refusing to attend the coronation of Anne Boleyn, exasperated the king against More to the highest degree, and in the ensuing parliament he was attainted for having countenanced and encouraged Elizabeth Barton, a pretended prophetess, styled "The Holy Maid of Kent". This attempt at his life he parried; but, upon his refusal to take the oath imposed in 1534, relative to the king's marriage, a jury, to their eternal disgrace, found him guilty. He was beheaded on Tower-hill, the 5th of July, 1535, his fortitude and good humour not forsaking him on the scaffold.

His Utopia is his most celebrated work, and he also wrote the History of King Richard the Third, which has been published both in Latin and English.

BUCHANAN.

GEORGE BUCHANAN, the elegant poet and historian, was born in the year 1506, near Killkerne, in the shire of Lennox, now usually called Dumbarton, Scotland. He was of a good family, though reduced to indigence: happily, an uncle sent him to Paris to be educated. His uncle dying, necessity induced him to enter as a common soldier with the French troops that landed in Scotland: leaving them, and struggling some time with poverty and misfortune, in his twentieth year he obtained the professorship of grammar in the college of St. Barbe; from whence he was taken by Gilbert Kennedy, earl of Cassilis, as tutor or domestic chaplain. During his abode with this nobleman he translated into Latin, Linacre's Rudiments of Grammar. Returning to Scotland with the earl, he obtained the notice of James V. and was appointed tutor to his natural son James, afterwards the famous earl of Murray. In 1538 he published Franciscanus, a bitter invective; but he had previously begun his warfare against the monks by a satirical poem, entitled *Somnium*. After he had thus committed himself with the clergy, the king meanly deserted him, and suffered him to be imprisoned for heresy. From prison he first escaped to England, next to France, and though invited to Portugal, he was there accused of writing *Franciscanus*, and imprisoned by the Inquisition, where, after remaining a year and a half, he was transferred to the milder durance of a monastery. Here he beguiled the tedium of confinement, by beginning the translation of David's Psalms into Latin verse.

Obtaining his liberty in 1551, he was still so much favoured by the king of Portugal, that he was allowed a small pension, and invited to remain in that country. Embarking, however, for England, its unsettled state under Edward VI. induced him to leave it for France, whence the marshal de Brisac engaged him to be tutor to his son in Piedmont; in which employment he remained five years, partly in Italy and partly in France. He returned to Scotland in 1560, where he openly embraced the Protestant religion, and was soon after made principal of St. Leonard's college, in the university of St Andrews.

His former pupil the earl of Murray now coming into power, Buchanan closely connected himself with him, and the party that opposed queen Mary. He was afterwards nominated preceptor to the young king James VI. a station he occupied several years. In 1571 he published his Detectio Mariæ Reginæ, a most virulent attack upon the character and conduct of queen Mary, charging her with the murder of her husband, and a criminal passion for David Rizzio. Queen Elizabeth allowed him a pension of 100*l.* a year.

The last twelve or thirteen years of his life he spent in composing his History of Scotland, which first appeared at Edinburgh in 1582. He survived this publication but a short time, dying at the age of seventy-six. Finding he had not money enough to pay for his funeral, he ordered his servant to bestow what there was upon the poor. The city of Edinburgh, however, honoured itself by burying him at the public expense. A valuable edition of the whole of his works, collectively, was published at Edinburgh, in 2 vols. folio, in 1714, and reprinted at Leyden, in 1725, in two vols. 4to.

In his history of Scotland, written in Latin, he is said to have happily united the brevity of Sallust with the perspicuity and elegance of Livy.

It is further said of Buchanan, "that he could imitate all the Roman poets with such accuracy, that he who compares will often be tempted to prefer the copy to the original!"

SIR JAMES THORNHILL.

This famous English painter was descended from an ancient and respectable family in Dorsetshire, and was born at his father's seat in that county, in the year 1676. The family estate, however, being sold shortly afterwards, the youth was placed by his uncle, the celebrated physician Sydenham, with a painter of very moderate abilities; under whom, by his indefatigable attention and great natural parts, he, in a short time, made considerable progress. His extraordinary merit having reached the court, queen Anne not only employed him to paint the dome of St. Paul's cathedral, the history of that Apostle, and many other public works, but also constituted him her principal painter. Uncommon diligence in his profession, and the patronage he had acquired, soon enabled him to re-purchase and improve his patrimonial estate. He became a fellow of the Royal Society, and was elected member of parliament. Still, neither honours nor opulence prevented him from exercising his pencil. The whole art was embraced by his genius; but history, particularly allegory, seems to have been his forte. The grandeur of his allegoric conceptions he has decidedly expressed in his paintings in the hall of the Hospital at Greenwich. In the centre of the cupola is a compass, with its proper points duly bearing: in the coving are the four winds in alto-relievo. Eurus, the east wind, arising out of the east, winged, with a lighted torch in his right hand, as bringing light to the earth; with his left he seems to push the morning star out of the firmament: the demi-figures and boys, which form the groupe, shew the morning dews that fall before him. Auster, the south wind, is represented with his wings dropping water, and pressing water out of a bag, the little boys near him throwing about thunder and lightning. Zephyrus, the west wind, is accompanied by little Zephyrs, with baskets of flowers, scattering them around; the figure playing on the flute denotes the pleasures of the Spring. Boreas, the north wind, with dragon's wings, denotes his fury, his boisterous companions flinging about hailstones, snow, &c. Sir James, nevertheless, excelled in portraits, in landscape, and even in architecture. At Hampton Court the cieling of the queen's bed chamber was painted by sir James Thornhill: here, Aurora is rising out of the ocean in her chariot drawn by four horses. His paintings in the dome of St. Paul's cathedral are known to represent the principal occurrences in the life of that Apostle.

The celebrity he had acquired by his public works induced George II. to confer upon him the order of knighthood. But, as the promotion of the arts was made to give way to politics, both sir James Thornhill, and sir Christopher Wren, lost their public employments. Sir James afterwards continued to amuse himself by painting easel pictures; but, it is supposed, his removal preyed upon his spirits, and he died in 1732, at the age of 56, in the place where he was born.

Sir James Thornhill left a son, who possessed a considerable share of his father's professional abilities; and a daughter, who was clandestinely married to the celebrated Hogarth. For several months, sir James remained irreconciliable; but his lady, who is supposed to have been favourable to the match, having procured some of Hogarth's pictures of the Harlot's Progress, laid them in her husband's way, and on his inquiring eagerly about them, informed him that they were his son-in-law's. This well-contrived stratagem produced a reconciliation; and, though sir James afterwards observed that such an artist could not want any portion, his treatment of the young couple was affectionate and generous beyond expectation.

THOMSON.

JAMES THOMSON, one of the nine children of a divine of the church of Scotland, was born at Ednam, near Kelso, in Roxburghshire, Sept. 11, 1700. The rudiments of his education he received at Jedburgh. A neighbouring minister of taste and learning discovered and encouraged his early propensity to poetry. Subsequent to this he was invited to spend his vacations at the seat of sir William Bennet; was favourably noticed by sir Gilbert Elliot, of Minto; and frequently visited at lord Cranston's. From school he went to the university of Edinburgh, where he soon began to acquire distinction. He was first intended for the church; but, relinquishing this design, in 1725 he embarked at Leith for London, where he quickly found a zealous patron in Mr. Forbes, afterwards lord president of the court of session.

In March 1726, he published his 'Winter,' which was dedicated to Spencer Compton, earl of Wilmington; this poem made him known to Pope. His 'Summer' was published in 1727; his 'Spring' in 1728; and his 'Autumn' in a quarto edition of his works in 1730. To rouse the nation against the Spaniards, he published his 'Britannia'; and, in 1729, following the advice of his friends to turn his thoughts to the drama, his tragedy of Sophonisba was acted with great applause. After making the tour of Europe with the hon. Charles Talbot, he produced his admirable poem on 'Liberty.' With the death of his noble fellow-traveller he lost his secretaryship of briefs, a place of little duty or attendance, and suited to his retired way of living: however, not depressed, the sale of his works and the liberality of his new patrons amply remunerated him. In 1738, his 'Agamemnon' was acted, and produced him a considerable sum. Upon the recommendation of his new friend, lord Lyttleton, Frederick Prince of Wales assigned him a pension of 100*l.* per annum, and he was always received with courtesy. The masque of 'Alfred' was his next dramatic performance, and in this he was assisted by Mr. Mallet; it was exhibited with great applause, but his 'Tancred and Sigismunda' was the most successful. This appeared in 1745, and in the following year his 'Castle of Indolence', esteemed by many critics the most perfect and pleasing of his compositions. Lyttleton procuring the place of surveyor-general of the Leeward Islands, this brought him 300*l.* per annum, after paying his deputy. 'Edward and Eleonora' was the last work he lived to publish; his 'Coriolanus' was just completed, when a violent fever, occasioned by a neglected cold, occasioned his death on the 27th of August 1748.

As some time previous to his decease he occupied a small villa in Kew-lane, his remains were deposited in Richmond Church, under a plain stone; but a decent monument was erected to his memory in Westminster Abbey in 1762, out of the profits arising from a splendid edition of his works; and in 1790 and 1791, the earl of Buchan instituted an annual celebration of the poet's memory on Ednam Hill, and Burns wrote some verses on the subject.

The most distinguishing qualities of his mind are better represented in his writings than they can be by any biographer: however, he was rather robust than graceful in his person, being above the middle size, and, as Armstrong observed, "more fat than bard beseems." His tenderness, however, comprehended even the brute creation; and his benevolence was active on all occasions within his compass: his friends loved him with ardour, and the public sincerely lamented his death.

Holl sculp

EARL OF ESSEX.

THIS unhappy favourite was the eldest son of Walter the first Earl of Essex, by Lettice, daughter of Sir Francis Knollys, who was related to Queen Elizabeth, and was born at Netherwood, his father's seat, in Herefordshire, in the year 1567. On the death of his father, he was recommended to the protection of the Earl of Sussex, and Lord Burghley, who was appointed his guardian. In 1578, Essex was placed at Trinity College, Cambridge, under the master, Dr. Whitgift, afterwards archbishop of Canterbury. Having left the University, he made his first appearance at court in the seventeenth year of his age. His mother, not long after his father's death, had married the Queen's favourite, the celebrated Earl of Leicester, whom, in 1585, he accompanied to Holland as general of the horse, and acquitted himself so well at the battle of Zutphen, that he was created a knight-banneret. In 1587, Leicester being advanced to the office of lord-steward, Essex succeeded him as master of the horse; and in the following year, when the army was assembled at Tilbury, to repel the Spanish Armada, the Queen created Essex general of the horse, and soon after conferred upon him the order of the garter.

In 1589, he went with the expedition to Portugal, which was to restore Don Antonio to that crown; but incurred the Queen's displeasure, not asking her leave: his marriage with Frances, the daughter of Sir Francis Walsingham, was another measure by which he had nearly forfeited her Majesty's confidence; and, though passed over at the moment, was not quickly forgotten. In 1591, Henry IV. of France having demanded fresh assistance from Elizabeth, Essex was sent with 4000 men, a small train of artillery, and a competent fleet, to Normandy, where, after wasting a whole winter before the walls of Rouen, owing to Henry's indetermination, he quitted the service in disgust; but not without challenging M. Villars, the governor of Rouen, to a single combat, which the latter declined. Upon his return home, all his address and abilities were wanting to defend himself and his royal mistress from their domestic enemies. In 1596, he went upon a successful expedition against Cadiz.

Having been again sent out to act against the Spaniards, and failing to intercept their Plate fleet, though he destroyed Villa Franca, &c. on his return he found the Queen highly incensed against him. This, like preceding differences, would probably have been of short continuance, if Essex had continued even outwardly respectful to the Queen; but, in a dispute with her, in 1598, concerning Ireland, he had the insolence to turn his back upon her Majesty, who, taking fire at the disrespect, gave him a violent blow on the cheek, at the same time bidding him "go and be hanged." The exasperated Earl, losing all presence of mind, clapped his hand upon his sword; upon which the lord high admiral rushed in between them, and Essex withdrew, swearing bitterly he would not have put up with such an affront from the King her father. From this incident his ruin may be dated. Essex was sent into Ireland as a kind of honourable exile; where, treating with the rebel Tyrone, he fell into deeper disgrace, and upon his return was imprisoned, and, falling sick with grief and vexation, the Queen again relented, "and would have visited him if it could have been done consistently with her honour."

Such, however, was his infatuation, that he at length armed himself and his followers, to obtain possession of the Queen's person by force; but, after some blood spilt, he was taken by the Earl of Nottingham, at Essex-house, in the Strand, tried, and condemned to the scaffold on Tower-hill, where he suffered on the 25th of February 1601, in the thirty-fourth year of his age.

DR. ROBERTSON.

THIS great historian was the eldest son of the Rev. William Robertson, minister of Borthwick, in the county of Mid-Lothian, and was born on the 8th of September 1721. He received the first rudiments of his education at the school here; but, to acquire the learned languages, was removed to that of Dalkeith, under the tuition of Mr. Leslie, who did not live to witness the rapid rise of his pupil in the republic of letters. As the services of young Robertson were intended for the Church of Scotland, he began to qualify himself for public speaking at a very early age, by joining a society in the College, who met, at stated times, to cultivate the study of elocution.

In the year 1741, Mr. Robertson received a license from the Presbytery of Dalkeith to preach, before he had completed his twentieth year. In 1743, he was presented to the living of Gladsmuir, in the county of East-Lothian, by the Earl of Hopeton, which, however, did not exceed 100*l.* a year. Out of this, after the death of his parents, he greatly assisted his father's family, and educated his sisters under his own roof. Nor, till they were respectably settled in life, did he think himself at liberty to form a matrimonial union with his cousin, Miss Mary Nisbet, whose father was one of the ministers of Edinburgh. The part Mr. Robertson took in the proceedings of the Presbytery, and a sermon in reply to "Dr. Law's Theory of Religion," so completely established his fame, that his friendship was courted by every man of taste and literature in Scotland; and he was one of the first members of the Select Society, instituted at Edinburgh, in 1754, for literary discussion, philosophical inquiry, and improvement in the art of public speaking. The most distinguished speakers were, Sir Gilbert Elliott, Mr. Wedderburne, Mr. Pringle, Lord Kames, &c. Mr. Hume the historian, and Dr. Adam Smith, were also members; but they never opened their lips in debate.

About 1753, Mr. Robertson entered on his first great work, the History of Scotland, and completed it in November 1758, having about the same period received from the University of Edinburgh the degree of D.D. by diploma. He soon after entered into a controversy with Mr. Tytler, respecting the character of Mary Queen of Scots: with personal hostility, however, his pages were never stained; and, in Mr. Tytler's "Inquiry into the Evidence against Mary," not a single expression can be found unbecoming a scholar or a gentleman. Each of them afterwards maintained the cause he had espoused, and lived in mutual friendship. Immediately after the writing of his History of Scotland, Dr. Robertson was translated from Gladsmuir to one of the churches of Edinburgh. In 1759, he was appointed chaplain of Stirling Castle; in 1761, one of his Majesty's chaplains in ordinary for Scotland; in 1772, principal of the College of Edinburgh; and, two years afterwards, King's Historiographer for Scotland, with a salary of two hundred pounds a year. About this time he rejected a proposal made to him by some of his friends, to try his fortune in the Church of England.

His History of Charles V. was his next great work; but this was longer in his hands than he expected it to be. His History of America he next entered upon with vigour, and published the first part of it in two quarto volumes in 1777. Dr. Robertson's labours were even approved in Spain; and, in the decline of the same year, he was elected a member of the Royal Academy of History at Madrid. The Royal Society of Edinburgh, which was incorporated in March 1783, may be considered as founded by Dr. Robertson.

In Dr. Robertson's mind there was nothing of that asperity which incessant study is apt to generate. He was a loving husband, an affectionate father, a kind master, and a steady friend.

SIR RALPH ABERCROMBIE.

THIS brave officer was the son of George Abercrombie, of Tillibodie, in Clackmannanshire, and was born in the year 1733; and after receiving a liberal education, went, by choice, into the army. His first commission was that of cornet, in the third regiment of dragoon guards. In February 1760, he obtained a lieutenancy in the same regiment; in April following, a company in the third regiment of horse; and in this he rose to the rank of major and lieutenant-general. In November 1780, he was included in the list of brevet-colonels, and in 1781 was made colonel of the 103rd. or King's Irish infantry. In September 1787, he was promoted to the rank of major-general. Soon after the late war broke out in 1793, he commanded the advanced guard of the army as lieutenant-general, on the heights of Cateau, and was wounded at Nimeguen. In the unfortunate retreat from Holland, in the year 1794, the guards, as well as the sick, were left under his care. In 1795, he was made knight of the bath, and appointed commander in chief in the West Indies, where he made himself master of the islands of Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent's; and in February 1797, the Spanish island of Trinidad capitulated to him. On his return to England, he was appointed lieutenant governor of the Isle of Wight, and in 1798, removed to the higher office of governor of Fort Augustus and Fort St. George; but, previous to this, he had been made commander in chief in Ireland: being there succeeded by the Marquis Cornwallis, he was removed to the chief command in Scotland, where his conduct gave universal satisfaction.

In the affair of the Helder, Sir Ralph Abercrombie held a principal command under the Duke of York: however, a more favourable enterprise than this soon afforded our hero an opportunity of immortalizing his name. This was the memorable expedition in 1801, to dispossess the French of Egypt. The landing at Aboukir on the 8th of March, the first dispositions, the attack, and the succeeding victories, all demonstrated, that the best qualities of the greatest commanders were united in Sir Ralph Abercrombie. But it was his destiny to fall in the moment of triumph: this was when the French made a second advance on the 21st of March, which was contested with unusual obstinacy, and they were again obliged to retreat. He received a mortal wound in his thigh: this he concealed till the enemy were totally routed, and he fell from his horse; being conveyed from the field of battle to the admiral's ship, he died on the 28th, and was interred under the castle of St. Elmo, in the island of Malta.

This victory, however, raised the British character higher than ever in the eyes of our Mahometan allies. In private life, Sir Ralph was remarkable for the performance of every relative duty. As a testimony of national regard, the House of Commons unanimously voted a monument to his memory in St. Paul's cathedral, and a pension of 2000*l.* was settled on his family. His widow was created Baroness Abercrombie of Aboukir and Tillibodie, with remainder to her heirs male by her late husband.

Sir Ralph left four sons: George, a barrister, heir apparent to the barony; John, a major-general in the army; Alexander, also a major in the army; and James, member of parliament for Midhurst. In fact, he was one of a family distinguished for bravery and talents. His brother, a lieutenant-colonel, was killed at Bunker's hill in 1774. Another, Alexander, one of the Scotch Judges, died in 1795, a man of high reputation in the law, and not less distinguished for his literary taste. He was the author of several papers in the Mirror and Lounger; and Sir Ralph sat in three parliaments for the county of Clackmannan.

DE LOLME.

THE celebrated author of "The Constitution of England," JOHN LOUIS DE LOLME, was born at Geneva, about the year 1745, of respectable parents. He received a liberal education, and embraced the profession of the law; but did not practise long, before he formed the resolution of quitting his country. The English government, in particular, excited his curiosity, and he was anxious to witness its operations, in order to become acquainted with its principles. About 1772, he first appeared as an author here, having published a tract under the title of "A Parallel between the English Constitution and the former Government of Sweden; containing some Observations on the late Revolution in that Kingdom, and an Examination of the Causes that secure us against both Aristocracy and absolute Monarchy."

He soon after commenced his celebrated work on the English Constitution, which established his literary and political fame; and, making its first appearance in the French language, was applauded as a very ingenious and spirited performance, combining originality of thought with a justness of remark and perspicuity of expression. A translation of it being earnestly desired, the author enlarged and improved it, and published the first English edition of it in June 1775. As to the merits of this work, it is sufficient to say, that its authority has been frequently quoted by some of the first characters in this country both in and out of the senate.

Being an enemy to superstition, he ridiculed its absurdities in his "History of the Flagellants; or, Memorials of Human Superstition," partly borrowed from the Abbé Boileau. It being in agitation to republish "De Foe's History of the Legislative Union between England and Scotland," in 1787, Mr. De Lolme wrote a judicious Essay, calculated for an introduction to that work. In the following year, he published "Observations relative to the Tax upon Window-Lights, the Shop-Tax, and the Impost upon Hawkers and Pedlars." He condemned the first *in toto*, reprobated the second as a tax upon the very reverse of property, and the third he disapproved of as injurious and oppressive. Upon the Question of the Regency, in 1789, he presented to the public some "Observations upon the National Embarrassment, and the Proceedings in Parliament relative to the same."

There cannot be the least doubt, that Mr. De Lolme deserved a greater degree of patronage than he appeared to have received; and, if a pension had been conferred upon him, the giver and the receiver would have been equally honoured. The works above mentioned are all to which the name of De Lolme has been appended; but, as he remained in England till within five years of his death, and as his appearance and mode of living, though retired, were always respectable, there is no doubt that literature formed a part of his employment. Though never perfectly divested of a foreign accent, his conversation was not only pleasing, but generally instructive; and, if the graces did not appear in his manners or deportment, he had a turn for pleasantry and humour, and has been compared with Burke for the felicity of his illustrations. Whether he really felt the pressure of absolute penury whilst in England, may be doubted; however, in his mode of living he could imitate the temperance and self-denial of a philosopher. His perception was acute, and his mind vigorous; and he bore the character of a man of probity and of an independent mind. He died in Switzerland, in 1806, in the neighbourhood of the Richterberg, in one of the houses which about six weeks after was swept away by the fall of part of that mountain.

LORD KILWARDEN.

ARTHUR WOLFE, Lord Viscount Kilwarden, was a native of the kingdom of Ireland, and had served the crown in the usual gradation of law offices. He became solicitor general of Ireland when Viscount Carleton was promoted to the Common Pleas, and attorney-general on Lord Clare's accession to the Seals. The Earl of Clonmel was his Lordship's predecessor in his last high office, that of chief justice of Ireland. As crown prosecutor, during a period which unfortunately called very much for the exercise of the duties of that office, he was fair, candid, and gentle; disposed to give the delinquent every reasonable advantage, and always less desirous to exaggerate guilt than to ascertain innocence. As a judge, no reasonable man ever attempted to censure him on any ground, except a strenuous, and what might be called an overstrained, assertion of the liberty of the subject. The situation in which he was placed suffered no diminution of credit or respectability in his hands: he was really, what his dying expressions bespoke him, an upright, honest, man, who well knew how to appreciate law and justice.

Lord Kilwarden had, however, grown timorous as he advanced in years; and, after the outrage of 1798, he was in perpetual apprehension of being seized and assassinated by rebels: from that time till his death, which took place on the 9th of July 1803, he had never ventured to pass a night far beyond the limits of Dublin. On the first news of the last disturbance, his fears returned, and the insurgents moving directly forward upon Dublin, he looked upon as an argument of their strength, confidence, and resources. His situation was peculiar: as attorney-general, it had heen his duty to point out numbers of the disaffected to the offended laws of their country; and, as a judge, he had ordered, in the course of his duty, many for execution. In an evil hour, obeying the impulse given to his mind by these reflections, did his Lordship determine to repair to Dublin for protection; and for that purpose, accompanied by his daughter and nephew, set out in a post-chaise about the dusk of the evening. They passed unmolested through the roads leading to the capital; but when arrived in it, having, by an overruling fatality, passed through St. James's and Thomas streets, then triumphantly occupied by the insurgents, he there fell a sacrifice to their wild and ungovernable fury.

It was darker than common at ten o'clock at night in July, when the chaise was stopped, about twenty yards from the entrance of Thomas-street. Lord Kilwarden immediately declared his name, and in vain prayed for mercy: the three individuals were dragged from the carriage, the savages exclaiming, they would sacrifice Lord Kilwarden and his male companion; but must spare the lady! She was then permitted to pass through their column without injury: Lord Kilwarden and his nephew, being felled to the ground, were pierced with innumerable wounds, and the ruffians even contended among themselves for the distinction of stabbing with their pikes their prostrate and defenceless victims. As soon as the streets were a little cleared, some humane persons approached the spot: the body of the nephew was found a few yards distant. Lord Kilwarden, not entirely bereft of life, was carried to a watch-house, where he survived only half an hour; when, in answer to some persons who talked of the speedy punishment of his murderers, he raised his head for the last time to exclaim, "Murder must be punished; but let no man suffer for my death, but on a fair trial, and by the laws of his country." These words, uttered in the agonies of a cruel death, bleeding, on the hard bed of a watch-house, were surely such as would have graced the lips of justice in her most dignified situation.

OTWAY.

THIS eminent tragedian was born at Trotting, in Sussex, in the year 1651: his father was rector of Woolbeding, in that county. Young Otway was educated at Winchester school, and was entered a commoner of Christ Church in 1669. Either the narrowness of his circumstances, or an irregularity of conduct, was the supposed cause of his leaving Oxford without a degree, and his coming to London, where he commenced actor; but, not succeeding in this, he turned his mind to writing, and produced "Alcibiades," which was acted at the Duke's Theatre in 1675. In the year following he brought out his "Don Carlos, Prince of Spain," which proved highly successful; and the profits of this play, it seems, rescued the poet for some time from a state of extreme indigence.

His theatrical exertions having introduced him to the acquaintance of men of fashion and pleasure, the patronage of the Earl of Plymouth, a natural son of Charles II. procured him a cornet's commission in some new raised troops destiued for Flanders in 1677. This profession not suiting his genius, he soon returned to England; and, resuming his employment as a writer, translated two pieces from the French, the History of the Triumvirates, &c. and composed licentious and indifferent comedies; but nevertheless fully established his fame as a tragic writer, by "The Orphan," which he produced in 1680, and "Venice Preserved" in 1682. These are the only productions which still keep possession of the stage, and are justly accounted some of the most tender and pathetic pieces exhibited on the English boards. No writer has touched the string of domestic distress, with more force and feeling. The language, though often highly poetical, is easy and natural, and the sentiments and incidents are irresistibly pathetic. "Venice Preserved," without a virtuous character, except the heroine, never fails to excite the deepest interest. It is remarkable, that, although its purpose was to paint the horrors and vices of popular insurrection, he has put into the mouth of his revolutionary hero such forcible declamation against corruptions of governments, and such glowing sentiments of patriotism, that the representation has been thought unsafe in times of public discontent.

The poetry composed by Otway, exclusive of his dramatic works, possesses a very small claim to excellence. As he wrote for the stage as his sole means of subsistence, the small encouragement he received, or most probably his dissolute habits of life, rendered this extremely precarious. Though he was permitted to join men of quality in their convivial parties, he obtained no substantial favours from any of them; but, to avoid his creditors, was obliged to lodge at the Bull, a public house on Tower Hill, where, in 1685, he miserably terminated his unhappy life at the age of thirty-four: he was interred in a vault under St. Clement's Church, in the Strand.

There is a traditionary story, that, being nearly famished, he begged a shilling of a gentleman, who gave him a guinea; and that he was choked by ravenously devouring a roll he had bought. Dr. Johnson hopes, the case was not so bad; and Pope was informed that Otway died of a fever, occasioned by his exertions in pursuit of a thief, who had robbed one of his friends. It is, however, not doubted that he closed his life under the pressure of severe penury.

Mr. Charles Gildon styles Otway a poet of the first magnitude, and tells us that he was a perfect master of the tragic passions. Dryden, for most part of his time, expressed a mean opinion of Otway; but at last, especially in his preface to Du Fresnoy, he declared in his favour, though not without some exceptions to his diction. Otway undeniably possessed nature, which is the greatest beauty. As some proof of this, Mrs. Barry could never perform some parts of his Orphan without tears.

CRANMER,

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

THIS eminent prelate, the son of Thomas Cranmer, esq. was born at Aslaeton, in Nottinghamshire, in 1489. In 1503, he was admitted of Jesus College, Cambridge, where he highly distinguished himself by his unwearied application to his studies. After having been some time a fellow of that society, he married; but, his wife dying within the year, he was re-admitted to his fellowship; and, in 1523, he commenced D.D. and became reader of the divinity-lecture in his own college. Being appointed one of the examiners of those who commenced bachelors and doctors in divinity, he questioned them out of the Scriptures, and would by no means suffer them to pass, if he found them unacquainted with them. During his residence at Cambridge, the question arose concerning Henry VIII.'s divorce; and, the plague breaking out at Cambridge that year, Dr. Cranmer retired to the house of Mr. Cressy, a friend of his at Waltham, where, casually meeting with Gardiner, and Fox, the King's secretary, the opinion he expressed, on the subject the monarch was so much interested in at that time, was so well taken, that he was immediately received into favour, and in 1529 was appointed chaplain to his Majesty. Having persuaded the divines at Cambridge to adopt his sentiments with respect to the King's marriage, he was despatched to France, Italy, and Germany, upon the same errand.

On the death of Archbishop Warham, the King resolved to place Cranmer in the see of Canterbury; and, upon his consecration in 1553, he made a notarial protest, that "he did not admit the Pope's authority any farther than it agreed with the express word of God, &c." The next service he performed for his royal patron, was pronouncing the sentence of his divorce from Queen Catherine, and he soon after confirmed his Majesty's marriage with Anne Boleyn. He next succeeded in persuading the King to allow of a new translation of the Bible, and farther urged him to the dissolution of the monasteries, advising that Henry should only receive the revenues of such as were of royal foundation, and that the estates of the rest should be employed in founding hospitals, grammar schools, and other useful institutions; but, when it was determined, by a parliamentary vote, that the revenues of all the monasteries should be appropriated to the sovereign's use, Cranmer, with some other prelates, fell under the King's displeasure, who, however, adopted part of the proposed plan, by founding six new bishoprics.

As Henry, after indulging his lust and his avarice, seemed jealous of any farther innovation, this spirit was carefully cherished by the popish clergy, particularly by Gardiner and his faction. All the persecution and ingratitude which the archbishop sustained till he was brought to the stake, was caused by his adherence to the principles of the Reformation. Upon the death of Henry VIII. Cranmer placed the crown upon the head of his successor: still, the spirit of persecution, that began under Henry VIII. pursued him through the reign of his son, and his successor, Queen Mary. Cranmer was also extremely unfortunate in sanctioning the burning of two persons as heretics; but still more so in a seeming recantation, which, during Mary's reign, he was weak enough to make of his former principles; notwithstanding which, the Queen and her ministers declared, "that recanting must not serve his turn." Another deviation of his was not forgotten: he had been one of the council of Lady Jane Grey; however, being pardoned for his treason, but left to suffer for his heresy, a warrant was issued for his execution; and, being sent down to Oxford, he was burnt on the 26th of March 1556, declaring, that "the hand which had signed the recantation should be burnt before the rest of his body."

BUFFON.

THIS celebrated naturalist was born at Montbard, in France, September 7, 1707: his father was Counsellor of the parliament of Bourgoigne. The first labours of Buffon were translations, a singular fact not found in the life of any man destined to great renown. He wished to perfect himself in the English language, to exercise himself in writing his own, to study in Newton the calculation of infinites; in Hales, the attempt towards a new system of physics; and he accordingly translated Newton's Fluxions, and Hales's Vegetable Statics. Buffon at first appeared to be entirely devoted to the mathematics; but he soon felt that nature called him to other studies. Hence, as a naturalist, he studied in the woods of which he was proprietor, and strictly followed that severe and scrupulous severity which takes nothing for its guides but calculation and observation.

In 1739, Buffon was nominated intendant of the King's garden, and the duties of this place fixed his taste for the remainder of his life; hence, without renouncing any study, it was only in relation to natural history that he permitted himself to contemplate them. Before writing the history of each species of animals, Buffon thought he ought to study the qualities common to all which distinguish them from beings of other classes. In his descriptions he was a poet; but, like the great poets, he knew how to render the delineation of objects interesting, by artfully mingling moral ideas. Few men were so laborious as Buffon, or used such continued regularity. He suffered but little from criticisms, because he never replied to any; simple in his private life, and easily accommodating to gay good nature, though fond of magnificence, and all that belonged to grandeur, he preserved that exalted politeness, those exterior deferences for rank and place, which in his youth were the manners of cultivated society.

In 1752, he married Mademoiselle St. Belin, whose birth, personal attractions, and solid virtues, compensated in his eyes for want of fortune. Buffon, though advanced in years, still possessed a majestic air and a handsome figure; and, being always uniform in his manner of living, age seemed to be prolonged for him beyond its ordinary bounds. By his wife he had but one son, M. le Comte Buffon, major in the regiment of Angoumois, who fell a victim to the atrocious villany of Robespierre during his sanguinary usurpation. The stone, for which Buffon refused to undergo any operation, at length terminated his useful employment and existence, though he preserved the freedom of his mind and the vigour of his reason till within a few days of his death. He died April 16, 1788, in the eighty-first year of his age.

He published his Translation of "Hales's Vegetable Statics" in 1735, and that of "Newton's Fluxions" in 1735. His celebrated work of "Natural History, general and particular," commenced in 1749, and was finished in 1767; it consisted of fifteen volumes quarto, or thirty-one volumes in twelves. To these were afterwards added "Supplements," amounting to several more volumes. In the purely anatomical part of this work, he was assisted by D'Aubenton; the rest was wholly his own composition. In 1771, his "History of Birds" began to appear. In the composition of this work he made great use of Montbelliard, who was the principal author of the two first quarto volumes: the other four were the joint production of both, and the three last were written by Buffon, assisted by the Abbé Bexon in forming the nomenclature and drawing up the descriptions. The whole of the works of this elegant and accurate author have been and are still received among the standard and classical books of this country. A recent edition has been published at Paris, edited by Sonnini, consisting of one hundred and fourteen volumes, containing numerous additions, and descriptions of many new birds and quadrupeds discovered since the time of Buffon.

PRINCE EUGENE.

PRINCE FRANCIS OF SAVOY, so called, was one of the most famous generals of his time; he was the grandson of Charles Emanuel Duke of Savoy, and son of Eugene Maurice, the Count of Soissons, general of the Swiss, and governor of Champagne in France, by a niece to Cardinal Mazarin. He was born at Paris in 1663. In 1670, being destined to the church, he was known in his youth by the name of the Abbé de Carigan. Being compelled to enter the army, and in consequence of the death of his father refused a regiment at the French court, he went to Vienna, offered himself as a volunteer against the Turks, and distinguished himself so much in the first campaign, that the Emperor gave him a regiment of dragoons. After the siege of Vienna was raised, he served in Hungary; and, in 1691, he was sent to Coni, in Piedmont, besieged by the French, which he relieved, and took Carmagnole. In September 1697, he totally defeated the Turks at the battle of Zenta. In the Spanish succession war, he was sent into Italy to command against Catinat: on returning to Vienna, he was made president of the council, and the Emperor entrusted the military chest to his disposal.

Being afterwards united with the great Duke of Marlborough, they obtained a complete superiority over the French in Germany. In 1705, Prince Eugene suffered a repulse by the French in the bloody action of Cassano. After driving the French from Turin, he entered France and besieged Toulon, but without success; but in 1708, resuming the command of the Imperialists in Flanders, he partook with Marlborough of the victory of Oudenard and the capture of Lisle. In the following year he commanded the centre of the battle of Malplaquet, and received a considerable wound. After a change in the English politics had prepared a peace and the downfall of Marlborough, Prince Eugene came to London and received a present from Queen Anne of a sword valued at 5000*l.*; but, being unable to alter the determination of the cabinet, he returned to finish the war alone. He took Quesnoy, but in the end was over matched by Marshal Villars, who took the prince's magazines, and disconcerted the whole plan of the campaign; at length the negociation, which he commenced with Villars, produced the peace of Rastadt in 1714.

Being again called upon, to head a considerable army assembled by the Emperor Charles VI. he passed the Danube, and in 1716 defeated the Grand Vizier at Peterwaradin: in the year following he again attacked the Turks, besieging Belgrade, and relieved the place completely. The peace of Passarowitz, in 1718, was the consequence of his brilliant success. After he had retired to Vienna, covered with glory, and was hailed as the saviour of the empire, he employed his fortune in cultivating the fine arts, and in the patronage of literature. The war of 1733 about the succession of Stanislaus King of Poland, again calling Eugene into action, he had the mortification of seeing Philipsburg taken by the French before his eyes; and, though he obtained some credit in covering Mentz and Friburg, he did not choose to hazard a battle.

He died at Vienna in 1736, aged 73. The French officers that became his prisoners he is said to have treated with less politeness than they experienced from the Duke of Marlborough; and, it is added, that he sometimes used stratagems which war itself would scarcely justify; though he was active, enterprising, and full of resources. He was free from pride, faithful to his promises, generous, and liberal.

The Memoirs of Prince Eugene, written by himself, and which recently appeared upon the continent, is a singularly valuable production, and has been translated into English.

SPENSER.

THIS illustrious poet was born about 1553 in London, and educated as a sizar at Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, where he took the degree of B. A. in 1572, and M. A. in 1576. After continuing some time at College he became a candidate for a fellowship, but was unsuccessful, and quitted the University. Residing at the house of a friend in the North, he fell in love with the 'Rosalind', of whose cruelty he composed such pathetic complaints in his Shepherd's Calendar, which appeared about this time, addressed to Sir Philip Sidney, the most popular of all the courtiers of his age. Spenser was, by him, introduced at the court of Queen Elizabeth, who made him poet-laureat, with a pension of fifty pounds per annum, which, it seems, owing to the Lord Treasurer's dislike to poetry, was never regularly paid. Lord Grey, of Wilton, being appointed Deputy of Ireland, Spenser was chosen to be his secretary; but this nobleman being re-called in 1582, the bard returned with him to England, and seems to have continued here till the untimely death of Sir Philip Sidney in 1586.

Spenser's services being recompensed by a grant from Queen Elizabeth, of three thousand acres of land, out of the forfeited estates in the county of Cork, he returned to Ireland. His house was at Kilcolman, and the river Mulla ran through his grounds. About this time he became intimately acquainted with Sir Walter Raleigh, whom, in his poem called 'Colin Clout's come home again,' he described as the Shepherd of the Ocean. In 1594 he fell in love with a merchant's daughter, and, being more successful than in his first amour, he wrote a beautiful epithalamium, which he presented to her on her bridal day. In 1596 he visited England, and presented to the Queen his 'View of the state of Ireland,' a work, which, though very short, contains, probably, the best account extant of the customs, manners, and national habits, of that day. In 1598, the Queen recommended him to be made Sheriff of Cork; but the rebellion which broke out under the Earl of Tyrone, shortly after, frustrated her generous intentions. In the mean time he had completed his 'Fairy Queen:' at first he published only three books; but in a subsequent edition added three more: but the six last books, excepting the two last cantos on Mutability, were unfortunately lost by his servant. His estate formerly belonging to Desmond, and being plundered by the Irish rebels, he was forced back to his native country, where he was plunged into new calamities. He died in King Street, Westminster, in 1598, and was buried, as he desired, near Chaucer, in Westminster Abbey. His obsequies were attended by several of his poetical contemporaries, who paid the last honours to his memory. Several copies of verses were thrown into his grave, with the pens that wrote them, and his monument was erected at the charge of Robert Devereux, the unfortunate Earl of Essex.

Drummond, of Hawthornden, tells a different story of Spenser's death. Upon the authority of Ben Jonson, he relates, 'that Spenser's goods were plundered by the Irish, in Desmond's rebellion; his house and a little child of his burnt; he and his wife narrowly escaping; that he afterwards died in King Street, Dublin, through absolute want.' The poems of Spenser, however, will never perish. Though he has unnecessarily introduced into them many obsolete terms, they contain a flow of poetry, an elegance of sentiment, a fund of imagination and glowing enthusiasm, which will infallibly hand them down to posterity. Spenser's works were published in six volumes 12mo. by Mr. Hughes, with an account of his life, and a glossary, and re-printed in 1750. The last edition of his works was given by Mr. Todd, in eight volumes 8vo.

SIR MATTHEW HALE.

THIS ornament of the English bench, and one of the greatest judges that ever sat in Westminster-hall, the only child of Robert Hale, Esq. barrister, was born at Alderley, in Gloucestershire, on November 1, 1609. Both parents dying while he was a child, his education devolved upon his maternal uncle Poyntz, who consigned him to his next kinsman, Antony Kingscot, Esq.: by him he was placed under the tuition of Mr. Staunton, the vicar of Wooton-under-Edge, till 1626, when he was sent to Magdalen-hall, Oxford. Here he became a great proficient in learning, and was very assiduous at his studies, till he was corrupted by some strolling players, who came into that city. Being robust and active, and excelling in fencing and in the management of military weapons, he was upon the point of accompanying his tutor, Mr. Sedgwick, into the Low Countries, to serve under the Prince of Orange; but was diverted from it by a law suit being commenced against him for part of his paternal inheritance.

Happening to apply to Serjeant Glanville upon this business, he was persuaded to follow the law as a profession. This advice he took, and entered himself a member of Lincoln's-inn in 1629. Hence, he renounced every kind of dissipation, studying at the rate of sixteen hours a day. He always rose from dinner with an appetite, and able to enter with an unclouded mind upon any business. He was called to the bar a short time before the open rupture between Charles I. and his parliament; yet he was esteemed and caressed by all parties. He was one of the counsel for the Earl of Strafford, for Archbishop Laud, and for Charles I.; but his Majesty not acknowledging the jurisdiction of the regicide court, this deprived his advocate of this opportunity of displaying his abilities. Though he sincerely lamented the death of Charles I. he thought it his duty to take the engagement to the Common-wealth; and, when Cromwell was appointed to the protectorship, he never ceased his importunities till he prevailed upon him to accept the office of one of the justices of the common bench. Being elected a member of the House of Commons, he distinguished himself by his opposition to those who talked of setting up the kingdom of Christ, or his saints, after destroying all the records in the Tower, &c. Thus he continued administering justice till Cromwell died; but then refused the mourning sent to him for the funeral, and likewise the commission tendered to him by Richard Cromwell.

In the healing parliament of 1660, which recalled Charles II., Mr. Hale sat as representative for the county of Gloucester. Within a month after the Restoration, he was recalled to the degree of serjeant-at-law by the royal writ; soon after this, his Majesty insisted upon making him a knight. In 1671, he was raised to the office of chief justice of England, which he held only four years and a half, illness obliging him to resign it more than a year before his death, on the 25th of December 1676; he was interred in the church-yard of Alderley.

Sir Matthew Hale was twice married: out of ten children, only two, his eldest daughter and his youngest son, survived him. His professional fame as an author chiefly rests upon his "Historia Placitorum Coronæ; or, History of the Pleas of the Crown," published in 1736 from his original manuscript, in two volumes folio. His Theological works are numerous. He was of a middling stature, strong, and well proportioned; his countenance engaging, his conversation affable and entertaining, his elocution easy and persuasive; affectionate to his family, and sincere to his friends: and, as to genuine Christianity, he taught the theory of it by his precepts, and the practice by his example.

RICHARD CUMBERLAND.

This celebrated moralist was the son of Dr. Cumberland, Bishop of Clonfert and Kilmore, in Ireland. His mother was a daughter of the celebrated Dr. Bentley. Mr. Cumberland was born in February 1732, and at an early age was sent to school at Bury St. Edmunds; but, when twelve years old, was removed to Westminster, where he remained only two years, and was then entered at Trinity College, Cambridge. Without any tutor to direct him, he passed his examination greatly to the satisfaction of his friends, standing high on the list of wranglers for his year. Having taken his bachelor's degree, he found that mental fatigue had weakened his health; but, whilst preparing for his approaching election at Trinity, he was offered a situation, by Lord Halifax, as his lordship's private secretary, which he accepted, and accordingly removed to London.

In 1759, Cumberland was appointed crown agent for Nova Scotia; and married Elizabeth, the daughter of George Ridge, Esq. of Kelmiston, in Hampshire: but in the following year he went to Ireland with his patron, and obtained the clerkship of reports in the office of trade. Previous to the death of his revered father, Cumberland had become an author of considerable reputation. He had written four good comedies, and was in habits of intimacy with Johnson, Garrick, Goldsmith, Sir Joshua Reynolds, and others; and, on the accession of Lord George Germain to office, was appointed secretary to the Board of Trade; and in the year 1780, he was sent on a confidential mission to the courts of Lisbon and Madrid, a situation which is supposed to have laid the foundation of all his future distresses, and in a great measure embittered the remaining period of his existence; as on this occasion he contracted a debt of five thousand pounds, not one shilling of which was ever paid him by Lord North's administration. Under Mr. Burke's bill of economy, he was even dismissed from his office connected with the Board of Trade; when, having made considerable reductions in his establishment, he fixed his abode at Tunbridge Wells, devoting his time to literary occupations; but here he lost his wife, the partner of all his joys and the consoler of all his sorrows.

During the alarm of invasion, Mr. Cumberland headed two companies of volunteer infantry, and received the commission of major commandant. So beloved was he by his corps, that they honoured him with a sword, and at the conclusion of the peace agreed to serve under him without their customary pay. In the latter part of his life, Mr. Cumberland resided chiefly in London; and he was the last survivor of the celebrated club, of which Edmund Burke, David Garrick, Sir Joshua Reynolds, and Dr. Goldsmith, were members. After a few days' illness, Mr. Cumberland breathed his last, on the 7th of May 1811, leaving several children, most respectably situated in life.

Without including his dramatic pieces, many of which had an amazing run, the rest of his literary productions could not here be enumerated His remains, deposited in Westminster-abbey, near those of David Garrick, drew an excellent oration from the dean of Westminster, which, being very unusual in the established church, had a visible effect on the relatives of the deceased and a numerous assemblage of spectators. "The writings of Mr. Cumberland," the dean observed, "were of strict moral tendency. He wrote as much as any; few wrote better. He considered the theatre a school for moral improvement, and his remains are truly worthy of mingling with the illustrious dead which surround us." Mr. Cumberland published, in 1806, Memoirs of his own Life, in quarto.

EDWARD SEYMOUR,

DUKE OF SOMERSET.

THIS powerful statesman was the son of Sir John, and the brother of Jane Seymour, third wife of Henry VIII. and mother of Edward VI. After the death of the Queen his sister, Henry created him Earl of Hertford in 1537; and, after the disgrace of the Duke of Norfolk, he was appointed Lord Chamberlain. As Edward VI. at his accession was not quite ten years old, his father had appointed sixteen executors, to whom, during his minority, the regal authority was entrusted; but upon its being suggested, that it must be extremely troublesome, especially for foreign ministers, to be under the necessity of applying to such a number of functionaries, it was proposed that some one should be appointed president of the body, with the title of Protector; and this choice, though strenously opposed by the Chancellor Wriothesly, Earl of Southampton, fell upon the Duke of Somerset.

Though the war against Scotland was for some time conducted with tolerable success, Somerset's political talents were by no means equal to his ambition, or to his high station. Sir Thomas Seymour, his youngest brother, who had been created Lord Sudley, and constituted Lord High Admiral of England, was his implacable enemy; and, to add to his misfortune, a violent quarrel had fallen out between his Duchess and the Admiral's lady; the former expecting, from her previous rank, and her peerage in her own right, not only the precedence, but also that the Admiral's lady should bear her train, which she absolutely refused. Scotland being under a Regent at that time, he refused to accept of a ten years' truce proposed by Somerset, and the war was now carried on with indifferent success: the Protector had also made use of some German troops; a circumstance which excited considerable murmurings against him. In the meanwhile, the treasonable interruptions, which the Admiral had thrown in the way of the Protector's government, brought him to the block on the 20th of March 1549.

After the Reformation, as various portions of land that had belonged to the monasteries had fallen into the hands of the nobles and the gentry, the number of labourers was increased, and the price of corn enhanced, to the great detriment of the lower classes of the community, whose cause the Protector openly espoused, which naturally inflamed the new land-holders, and added to the number of his powerful enemies. The favourers of the old superstition were universally his enemies: even the Bishop of Ely, though well inclined to the reformation, joined in the cabal against him. In vain did the Protector issue a proclamation against all new enclosures; in vain were the risings of the people checked by the prudent measures he adopted. His authority was resisted by an association of the most powerful of his enemies, who even formed themselves into a counter council, and in a manner compelled the young King to agree to the Protector's attainder of treason and felony: of the first charge he was acquitted, but found guilty of the latter, upon a statute made in the reign of Henry VII. which declared it felony for inferior persons to intend to take away the life of a privy councellor, though, in this statute, lords were expressly excepted. Being remanded to the Tower after his trial, the axe was not openly carried before him. He was executed on the 22d of January 1552, amidst the general lamentations of the people, many of whom dipped their handkerchiefs in his blood, to preserve it in remembrance; and it is certain, though they stifled their resentment at that time, they never forgave his great enemy and persecutor, the Duke of Northumberland.

MR. HOWARD.

THIS great and far-famed philanthropist was a native of Clapton, in the parish of Hackney, where he was born about the year 1727. His father, an opulent upholsterer, had carried on business in Long Lane, Smithfield, many years; but had retired to Enfield, and from thence removed to Clapton. Soon after the birth of young Howard, he was sent to Cardington, in Bedfordshire, to be nursed by a cottager, residing on his father's estate. The early part of his education was entrusted to a schoolmaster at some distance from town, who was in the habit of receiving the children of opulent dissenters. He was removed from this to a seminary of a superior description in London, where, among his fellow pupils, was the celebrated Dr. Richard Price; what time he left this school is not ascertained. However, his most impartial biographer observes, "he left school quite learned enough for the situation he was intended to have been immediately placed in, which was that of an apprentice to Mr. Newnham, a large wholesale grocer in the city." His father dying before his apprenticeship expired, he sat out upon his travels to France and Italy. Having completed his first tour, and purchased the paintings of several foreign masters, and other works of art, ill health induced him to take lodgings at Stoke Newington. Whilst here, he experienced so much kind attention from his landlady, Mrs. Loidore, a widow lady, of small independent property, that he offered her his hand, notwithstanding the disparity between them; which she honestly objected, he being then in his twenty-fifth year, and his bride in her fifty-second: the whole of his wife's independence he generously settled upon her sister. For the death of Mrs. Howard, three years afterwards, he was a sincere mourner. His next tour was to view the ruins of Lisbon; but, taken on the voyage by a French privateer, the representations of his sufferings in prison had the good effect of procuring better treatment for his fellow countrymen.

In 1758, he married the daughter of Sergeant Leeds, of Croxton, in Cambridgeshire, who died in 1765, soon after the birth of his only son. He then settled at Cardington; but soon after purchased a seat in the New Forest, Hampshire, though he did not reside there above three or four years before he finally returned to his beloved Cardington. His repeated excursions from thence, through the three kingdoms, almost to every part of the continent of Europe, and a part of Asia, to inspect the prisons, embrace so many acts of distinguished and disinterested benevolence, that a bare enumeration of them would be far too long for the whole space allotted to this sketch. He literally, like his great master, went about only doing good, from the year 1773 till January 1790; when, being at Cherson, on the Black Sea, his zeal to visit a young lady, who requested his assistauce, proved fatal to himself. He was buried in the vicinity of Cherson, and all due honours paid to his memory by Prince Potemkin and other Russians of distinction. His statue in the cathedral of St. Paul's was one of the first erected there by his grateful countrymen.

The principal work published by Mr. Howard was his "State of the Prisons in England and Wales; with Preliminary Observations and an Account of some Foreign Prisons." This appeared in 1777. In 1780, he published a new edition, and an Appendix to his State of the Prisons. In 1789, appeared his Account of the principal Lazarettos in Europe, with various papers relative to the plague.

Mr. Howard has had several biographers; but an ample and dispassionate detail of his life, and a vindication of his character and conduct, we believe, can only be found in the recently published "Memoirs of the Public and Private Life of John Howard, the Philanthropist, by James Baldwin Brown, Esq. of the Inner Temple, barrister-at-law."

SIR WILLIAM JONES.

THIS profound orientalist and distinguished scholar was born in London, in 1746; but, having lost his father when he was three years of age, the care of his education devolved upon his mother, who was eminently qualified for the task. In his fourth year, he was able to read any English book, distinctly and rapidly. At the close of his seventh, he was placed at Harrow-school; and, at first, was rather remarked for diligence and application, than for superiority of talents. During his ninth year, his studies were interrupted by a broken thigh; and, on his return to school, he was placed in the same class he would have attained, had that accident not occurred. After being subjected to corporal punishments and degradations for the non-performance of tasks he had never been instructed in, his emulation was roused, and he devoted himself to the perusal of elementary treatises, by which he obtained such fundamental knowledge, that, in the course of a few months, he was at the head of his class. In his twelfth year, he was moved to the upper school, and for two years he wrote exercises for many boys in the superior classes. At seventeen, he was removed to the university of Oxford; and after a few months was elected one of the four scholars on the foundation of Sir Simon Bennett. His early partiality for Oriental literature now displayed itself, in the study of Arabic: he soon discovered the connection between this and the Persian, and made himself master of the only Persian grammar then extant.

Having accepted the office of tutor to Lord Althorp, now Earl Spencer, in the course of the summer following, a fellowship was bestowed on him, and such were his habits of economy, that he considered this as an ample freehold, which, if he had obtained a year sooner, would probably have induced him to have declined the delicate and responsible task of a preceptor. In the summer of 1767, the King of Denmark being upon a visit in this country, Mr. Jones undertook the translation of an Eastern manuscript, containing the Life of Nadir Shah, into French; and this work, however arduous and unpleasant, was completed in the course of a year. Towards the end of 1769, he accompanied the family of Lord Spencer to the continent. Returning hence in the following year, he determined upon commencing a new course of life; and, resigning his charge in this noble family, devoted himself to the study of the law, and in 1770 was admitted of the Temple.

In 1772, Mr. Jones was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society: he had previously, in 1768, taken the degree of A.B.; but, only keeping the terms occasionally, he did not take his master's degree till 1773. In 1773 he also published his Commentaries on Asiatic Poetry. In January 1774, he was called to the bar. His legal celebrity increasing, he was appointed judge of the Supreme Court of Judicature in Bengal, and married the eldest daughter of the Bishop of St. Asaph. In April 1783, he embarked for India. In the intervals of his professional duties in India, he founded a society for the establishment of Oriental literature, and made several excursions into the interior of the country. He was indefatigable in the study of the Sanscrit, &c. His plan for the administration of the laws in India was highly approved of by Lord Cornwallis.

In 1794, Lady Jones returned to England on account of ill health. Sir William's intention was to have followed her; but the progress of a complaint, which eventually proved an inflammation of the liver, baffled his hopes, and terminated his existence in April 1794. His funeral was attended by all the respectable inhabitants of Calcutta, and all the honours due to his public station. His works are too voluminous for enumeration here; but it is perhaps the greatest tribute to his memory, to record that he was a sincere believer in, and a constant observer of, the precepts of Christianity.

DR. LETTSOM.

JOHN COAKLEY LETTSOM was one of twins, born in December 1741, in Van Dyke Island, near Tortola, within the verge of the tropics. At the age of six years he was sent to England for his education, and was placed under the protection of Mr. Fothergill, a preacher in the Society of Friends, and brother to the celebrated Dr. John Fothergill. By the former, young Lettsom was entrusted to the care of Dr. Sutcliff, to whom he was apprenticed. He was afterwards entered at St. Thomas's hospital, where he acquired those habits of industry, by which the whole of his after life was strongly characterized. He remained there two years, and then returned to his native country, in order to take possession of the property, which had fallen to him by the death of his father and elder brother. This property, however, consisted of very little, besides a number of slaves; whom, to his eternal honour, he immediately emancipated.

Having thus left himself in a manner destitute, he settled for a short time at Tortola as a medical practitioner, and soon established a very respectable practice. He afterwards visited the universities of Edinburgh and Leyden; at the latter, he took the degree of M.D. From Leyden he again came to London, where he commenced practice under the patronage of Dr. Fothergill. The same year, he was admitted a licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians: the year following, elected F.S.A. and, the year after, F.R.S. and very soon afterwards F.L.S.

His popularity, as a friend to science, and still more so as a philanthropist, now rapidly advanced. His subsequent marriage with a very amiable lady, who brought him a considerable fortune, gave him additional opportunities of exercising those feelings of benevolence towards his fellow creatures in distress, which had long glowed in his bosom. His correspondence with persons of the first eminence, both in Europe and America, extended to almost every name there recorded in the annals of science, literature, and benevolence. Dr. Lettsom belonged to almost every literary institution in the world: he was a member of no less than sixteen universities: a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh; and of nearly every other medical society in England and America. He was treasurer and one of the founders of the Royal Humane Society, and vice-president of the London Philosophical Society; in which honourable chair he was succeeded by his Royal Highness the Duke of Suffolk.

Of the writings of Dr. Lettsom it is impossible here to give even a list; they embrace a variety of interesting topics, every one of them tending to promote the great ends of science or universal benevolence. His last little work was a pamphlet, entitled "Recollections of Dr. Rush." It was written but a few weeks prior to his death. The manuscript was put into the hands of the writer of this, with a modest request, that he might not be "permitted to disgrace himself as an author in his old age." Those who have read the pamphlet will not need to be informed that Dr. Lettsom's powers had suffered nothing by age. This worthy and celebrated physician died after a short illness, on Wednesday, the 1st of November 1815; and his remains were interred in the Friends' burial ground, Little Coleman-street, Bunhill-row. The real value of Dr. Lettsom's character was known only to those who had constant opportunities of viewing him both in public and private life. Though, by artful and designing individuals, he was brought into considerable pecuniary embarrassments towards the close of his days; yet the general tenor of his life was governed by the principles of honour and integrity. The "Life and Correspondence of Dr. Lettsom" have been published in three 8vo vols. by Mr. Pettigrew, who has done ample justice to the numerous merits of his friend.

SIR JOHN MOORE.

THIS brave and much-lamented general was born at Glasgow, in the year 1760. John Moore was the youngest of five sons; and, after he had entered the army, he was scarcely, perhaps, two years in one situation. Having accompanied his father, Dr. Moore, and the late Duke of Hamilton, during a five years' tour in France, Italy, Switzerland, and Germany, Sir John Moore had a most excellent opportunity of obtaining a proficiency in the languages; and, being assisted by the Hamilton and Argyle families, he became a lieutenant-colonel in the 52d regiment, almost as soon as the forms of office would allow it. The war of the French Revolution having commenced, Lieutenant-colonel Moore, in 1795, and Major Kachler, were sent out to Corsica, under Lieutenant-general Dundas, where they attacked a martello tower, which, though only garrisoned by thirty-five men, made a most surprising defence against a sea and land force for many hours, and then capitulated. Soon after, he took Fort Convention on the same island, though obstinately defended in a most gallant style. The town of Calvi was the next place at which he distinguished himself still more conspicuously. To Sir John Moore's exertions, in no small degree, were the British indebted for the speedy reduction of the whole island of Corsica.

The next service he was employed in was under Sir Ralph Abercrombie in the West Indies, where Grenada and St. Lucia soon fell into the hands of the British. After the capture of Trinidad, Major-general Moore returned to Europe with General Abercrombie; and, the latter being subsequently appointed to the command of the expedition to Holland, Major-general Moore, for he now received this promotion, was selected to accompany him: but this expedition to the Helder failed, as it is generally understood, in consequence of the precipitancy of the Russians. The next service of General Moore was in the expedition to Egypt, where he was actually employed during the whole campaign; and his services were duly eulogized by the Duke of York as commander-in-chief. Sir John Moore afterwards conducted an auxiliary force to Sweden in May 1808; but these were not employed, owing to a misunderstanding between the British general and the Swedish monarch.

Immediately after his return from Sweden, Sir John Moore was sent with a body of troops, as third in command, to Portugal. It is well known that he continued to distinguish himself in every action with the French in Spain, till he was compelled to commence his fatal retreat to Corunna, in January 1809. Relative to the manner of Sir John Moore's death, at the battle of Corunna, Captain Hardinge observes, their horses were touching at the very moment that a cannon shot from the enemy carried away his left shoulder, and part of the collar bone. The violence of the stroke threw him from his horse, on his back. Not a muscle of his face altered, nor did a sigh betray the least sense of pain. Assenting to be carried to the rear, as the soldiers passed slowly along, he made them turn him round frequently to view the field of battle, and to listen to the firing. He apprehended that he should be long dying; in this, he was happily disappointed. He hoped the people of England would be satisfied; and so they have been, though many enemies endeavoured to sully his military fame. Bonaparte, notwithstanding, owned this general "was a skilful, clever, man." He was buried on the ramparts of Corunna: but his fame will never be eclipsed; he was the idol of the soldiers, and his military enthusiasm knew no lapse or change; for, to whatever was connected with his duties, however painful, he cheerfully submitted.

CONGREVE.

THIS celebrated English dramatist, descended from an antient family in Staffordshire, was born at Bardsa, or Bardsey, near Leeds, in February 1669. His father's military employment carrying him to Ireland, William received his first instruction at the public school of Kilkenny, whence he was transferred to the university of Dublin. Having acquired a correct taste in classical learning, he was sent to England, and entered as law student at the Middle Temple. The intricacies of law being irksome to his natural sprightliness, he amused himself with writing a novel, which he afterwards published, entitled "Incognita; or, Love and Duty reconciled." In his next work, he suddenly blazed out with some of those excellencies, upon which his great reputation is founded: this was his comedy of "The Old Batchelor," written before the author was twenty-one; and which caused Dryden to say, "he never saw such a first play in his life." Its success recommended Congreve to the notice of Lord Halifax, who bestowed more patronage on the muses than any man ever did in this country, before or since. He immediately made Congreve a commissioner for licensing hackney coaches; soon after, gave him a place in the pipe office; and, finally, one still more lucrative in the customs. His next play was "The Double Dealer." Queen Mary honoured this with her presence, and Congreve displayed his gratitude, after her decease, by a poetical tribute to her memory in the pastoral strain. Betterton having opened his new theatre, near Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, Congreve, in 1695, contributed the powerful aid of his comedy of "Love for Love," which proved one of the most entertaining and popular of his pieces. In the same year he wrote an irregular ode to King William on the taking of Namur; and, in 1697, he brought out his tragedy of "The Mourning Bride." His next piece was the comedy of "The Way of the World," which was followed by a masque, entitled "The Judgment of Paris," and "Semele," an opera. In 1710, Congreve published a collection of his plays and miscellaneous poems, dedicated to his earliest patron, Lord Halifax.

After Congreve's emoluments were increased by a sinecure place as secretary to the Island of Jamaica, he ceased to write, and, from a kind of affectation, is said to have spoken of his writings to Voltaire as trifles, beneath his notice. His latter years, however, were clouded with sickness and infirmity. Cataracts on his eyes brought on a total blindness, and repeated attacks of the gout gradually undermined all the vigour of his constitution. Being overturned in his carriage on his way to Bath, this brought on a perpetual pain in his side, and probably hastened his death, which took place at London in January 1728-9, in the 68th year of his age. He was interred with great solemnity in Westminster-abbey, where a monument was erected to his memory by Henrietta, Duchess of Marlborough. To this lady, who is said to have entertained a most romantic regard for him, he left the bulk of his fortune.

Congreve perhaps stands first on the list of English writers of comedy; and for this distinction he is indebted to a perpetual reciprocation of wit and repartee in the dialogue, joined with originality of plot and often of character. His personages being almost all witty, occasioned Pope to say,

Tell me if Congreve's fools are fools indeed.

It is no small praise to Congreve's "Mourning Bride," that Dr. Johnson has selected from this piece, a descriptive passage which he thinks second to none in the whole mass of English poetry; and that Lord Kaimes appears to be of a similar opinion. The miscellaneous works of Congreve have long since ceased to interest the public, unless their being reprinted in the collections of the English poets can be accounted a relic of vitality.

DR. WILLIAM HARVEY.

THIS celebrated physician was the eldest son of Thomas Harvey, a gentleman, of Folkestone, in Kent, where he was born in April 1578. At ten years of age he was sent to the grammar school at Canterbury, whence, in May 1593, he removed to Caius College, Cambridge. After spending six years in the study of logic and natural philosophy, he entered upon his travels. At Padua, he attended the lectures of Fabricius on anatomy; of Minadous, on medical pharmacy; and of Casserius, on surgery. Having taken, under these distinguished professors, the degree of M. D. at twenty-four, he returned to his native country, and, graduating at his own university, immediately commenced practice in London. In his thirtieth year he was chosen a Fellow of the College of Physicians, and soon after elected physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in Smithfield.

Being, in 1615, appointed to read the anatomy and chirurgery lectures, founded by Lumley and Caldwall, it was probably on this occasion that he first proposed his sentiments concerning the office of the heart and the circulation of the blood. At first he did little more than hint them; but, when he had confirmed his hypothesis by numerous and repeated experiments, in 1628 he published at Frankfort, for its more speedy diffusion over the continent, his *Exercitatio Anatomica de Motu Cordis et Sanguinis in Animalibus*. This discovery was of the highest importance in the whole art of physic: however, envy created enemies, and some of these had the meanness to attempt at injuring Dr. Harvey in his private practice. His adversaries have been divided into two classes: one of them endeavoured to prove his hypothesis false; whilst the other, admitting it to be well founded, asserted that he was not the original discoverer. Vander Linden, even took pains to prove that the circulation of the blood was known to Hippocrates; others claimed it for Michael Servetus, &c. &c. In 1628, letters were granted permitting Dr. Harvey to attend his Majesty as a physician in ordinary; with a promise, that he should fill the first vacancy.

In 1630, he was appointed physician to Charles I. He also attended the king into Scotland in 1633; and, at the breaking out of the civil war, remained attached both by office and affection to that monarch: after the battle of Edge Hill, he proceeded with the rest of the household to Oxford, and was there incorporated M. D. and three years afterwards created, by the King's mandate, warden of Merton College. In 1651, at the request of Sir George Ent, he published his *Exercitationes de Generatione Animalium; quibus accedunt quædam de Partu, de Membranis ac Humoribus Uteri, et de Conceptione*. Dr. Harvey had the happiness to see his great doctrine generally received; and, in 1652, a statue was erected to his honour by the College of Physicians. Two years afterwards he was chosen their president, an office which, on account of his age and infirmity, he would not accept. Three years before, he had built them a room for their meetings in their own garden, and a library or museum filled with choice books and chirurgical instruments; and, as he had no children, in 1656, presented them the deeds of his patrimonial estate. He was present at the first feast instituted by himself, to be continued annually, with a commemoration speech in Latin, in honour of the benefactors of the college. Being very infirm, he died in June 1657, at the age of eighty, and was buried in Hempsted chapel, belonging to the church of Great Samford, in Essex. A correct edition of his works, in quarto, was published by the College of Physicians in 1766, with his life by Dr. Laurence.

GIBBON.

THIS eminent English historian was born at Putney, in 1737. His father, Edward Gibbon, Esq. was a gentleman of family and fortune, and sat in two parliaments. Edward, his only child, was in his ninth year sent to Dr. Woodeson's school, at Kingston-upon-Thames. Having acquired the rudiments of Latin, he returned to his friends, and as in his twelfth year he read a variety of English books of poetry, romance, history, and travels, he mentioned this "as the most propitious to the growth of his intellectual stature." He was then entered at Westminster School, but repeated attacks of ill health prevented him from making a regular progress in the classical studies here. His constitution at length acquiring firmness, his father placed him as a gentleman commoner in Magdalen College, Oxford; yet the short time he spent here, not exceeding fourteen months, he has stigmatised as "the most idle and unprofitable of his life."

In 1753, thinking he was able to enter the lists of controversy with a catholic priest, he found himself completely vanquished in argument, and solemnly abjured the errors of heresy. His father, offended at his conduct on this occasion, sent him to Lausanne, in Switzerland, to be under the care of M. Pavilliard, a calvinist minister; here his faith in the Romish articles gradually gave way, and on Christmas-day, 1754, he received the sacrament in the protestant church. At Lausanne, he made himself master of the French and Latin languages, and of the art of logic, and read with great attention many excellent authors: belles-lettres, and the history of man and the human mind, were his favourite objects of study; mathematics he only touched upon, and left. What he called his banishment at Lausanne terminating in 1758, he was received by his father with favour and affection, and almost immediately undertook the arduous task of writing a work in a foreign language, which required polish and even elegance of style; this was his "Essai sur l'Etude de la Litterature," which was printed in 1761. At this time he was not twenty-two years of age: the topics most enlarged upon are taste, criticism, and philosophy; on which subjects there are many old observations well repeated; many ingenious conjectures advanced, and much reading displayed. It was preceded by an eulogium by Dr. Maty, and a dedication so strikingly manly and affectionate to the author's father, that, if a reconciliation had not previously taken place, little doubt could have remained of its being effected by such a production. As his father had a command in the militia of Hampshire, where his estates lay, he was soon after joined by his son, who took a captain's commission, which he held about two years and a half.

After the peace of 1763, he visited Paris, and, when he had spent some months with the gay and learned there, he visited Lausanne, preparatory to his journey into Italy. At Rome, "among the bare-footed friars who were singing vespers in the Temple of Jupiter," he conceived the first idea of writing the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire. In 1770, Mr. Gibbon's father died, and in 1774 he obtained a seat in the House of Commons, for the borough of Liskeard, through the favour of his kinsman, Lord Elliot; but during eight years never had the courage to open his mouth, though he always voted with the minister against the American revolution. In the beginning of 1776, the first volume, in quarto, of his Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire appeared; all the attacks against which he parried with the utmost ingenuity. The progress of a disease which had existed above thirty years terminated in a mortification, and carried him off, on the 16th of January 1794, in his sixty-seventh year. His approaching end, though unsuspected, did not in the least disturb his tranquility.

ARCHBISHOP SECKER.

THIS celebrated archbishop of the church of England was born in 1693, at Sibthorp, in Nottinghamshire. His father was a protestant dissenter, who lived upon a small paternal estate. His son, who had an excellent education, was first placed at a school at Chesterfield; and thence removed to an academy at Attercliffe, near Sheffield, where young men were educated for ministers among dissenters. He was afterwards sent to a similar institution, near Tewksbury, Gloucestershire; and, at the age of nineteen, had attained a good knowledge of the classics, the Hebrew language, and some branches of the mathematics, preparatory to his studies in theology. Having pursued these for some years, he abandoned his first plan to study physic, attending lectures with this view a considerable time. He then went to Paris for further improvement, and paid great attention to all the branches of medicine, including surgery and midwifery. His friend and fellow student, Mr. Butler, afterwards Bishop Butler, having conformed to the church, his example was followed by Mr. Secker. Previous to this, however, he had taken the degree of M.D. at Leyden, where he did himself great credit by a thesis, which he delivered on the occasion, "De Medecina Statica." He then entered himself a gentleman commoner of Exeter College, Oxford, and in a few months obtained the degree of B.A. He was ordained by Dr. Talbot, at that time bishop of Durham, and preached his first sermon in March 1723, and he afterwards became a chaplain in this prelate's family, and Dr. Rundle was his associate. In 1724, he was presented to the valuable living of Houghton-le-Spring, in Durham, where he married the sister of Mr. Benson, afterwards bishop of Gloucester. Mrs. Talbot, the widow of the prelate, by whose advice Secker had conformed, came to live with Mr. and Mrs. Secker; but, as Houghton-le-Spring did not agree with the health of his wife, Mr. Secker exchanged it for a prebend of Durham, with the rectory of Ryton. In 1732, being appointed one of the king's chaplains, he came to London, and in the following year was presented with the rectory of St. James. In January 1734-5, he was consecrated bishop of Bristol; Dr. Benson, his brother-in-law, being at the same time advanced to the see of Gloucester. In his high office as prelate, he now delivered twice a week, in his parish church, a course of lectures on the church catechism, which were afterwards published, and highly approved. In 1737, Dr. Secker was translated to the see of Oxford, which he held more than twenty years, and no one could perform, with greater assiduity and earnestness, the essential duties of his function: his exterior deportment likewise was grave, dignified, and perfectly adapted to the importance of the office and character he maintained. In 1748, Mrs. Secker died, leaving no issue, and the bishop did not marry again. In 1750, he exchanged his prebend of Durham and rectory of St. James's for the deanery of St. Paul's; and, in 1758, he was raised to the archbishopric of Canterbury. His original education among the dissenters did not in the least abate his zeal for the church of England; he even went farther than most of his contemporaries in endeavouring to extend its authority, and advocated the measure of establishing bishops in the American colonies, and shewed his sincerity by bequeathing 1000*l.* towards effecting the purpose.

The archbishop had for many years been a great sufferer from the gout, which latterly brought on severe local pains. These were at last confined to the thigh, and terminated in an extensive caries of the thigh-bone; one of the fatal consequences of which was a sudden fracture of it upon the mere raising him out of bed. Shortly after this he died, August 3, 1768.

PARNELL.

THIS pleasing poet was descended from an antient family in Cheshire. His father, who had adhered to the parliament in the civil wars, went to Ireland upon the Restoration, where he purchased an estate. Thomas, his eldest son, was born at Dublin in 1679, where he received his school education, and at the age of thirteen was transferred to the College. In 1700, he was admitted to the degree of M. A., took deacon's orders in the same year, and was ordained priest three years afterwards. In 1705 he was presented to the archdeaconry of Clogher, and about the same time married a lady of great beauty and merit. He now began to make those frequent excursions to England, in which the greatest part of his life was afterwards spent.

He became familiar with several distinguished men of letters, who were Whigs, as Addison, Congreve, and Steele; but towards the latter end of Queen Anne's reign, influenced as it is supposed by Swift, the zealous partisan of the Tories, Parnell deserted his former friends, and joined in close union with Pope, Gay, Arbuthnot, &c. Swift introduced him to the Lord Treasurer Harley, with great ceremony; and yet Parnell could never claim any high rank in literature. He was at one time an assiduous preacher in the London pulpits; but the change of the ministry at Queen Anne's death, at once destroyed all his prospects in the church. By Swift's recommendation, however, he obtained, from Archbishop King, a prebend, and the valuable living of Finglass. In 1712, his domestic happiness received a severe shock by the death of his beloved wife, which is said to have led him into those habits of intemperance in wine, which shortened his life. Though Goldsmith has represented him as a martyr to conjugal fidelity, he was in fact a man always, after this event, fluctuating between elevation and despondency; and so inconsistent, that, whilst frequenting society in the wilds of Ireland, he could not refrain from treating it with ridicule and contempt in his letters to his English friends; and the report of his splenetic effusions on this head subjected him to various mortifications.

He died at Chester on his way to Ireland, in July 1717, in the thirty-eighth year of his age, and was buried without any monumental record at Trinity church, in that city. Parnell was the author of several pieces, both in prose and verse. He wrote the life of Homer, prefixed to Pope's Iliad; a life of Zoilus, meant as a satire against Theobald and Dennis; and some papers in the Spectator and Guardian. After his death, Pope selected such of Parnell's compositions as he thought worth preserving, and published them in one volume octavo, 1721. Some posthumous pieces were printed at Dublin in 1758, in bulk superior to the former, but inferior in merit: Dr. Johnson thought it superfluous to inquire into the authenticity of the latter volume, or to canvas its merits; he therefore expressly limited his commendations to that first published by Pope.

The characteristics of Parnell's pieces are ease, sprightliness, fancy, clearness, and melody of versification. Their sentiments are elegant, and their morality pure. Several of them are translations, or imitations, happily executed: Parnell's Hermit, like Gray's Elegy, has, however, enjoyed a kind of immortality. Though his biographer, Goldsmith, is disposed to throw all possible lustre on his character, he does not raise it higher than that of a benevolently disposed man, pleasant in company when in spirits, much attached to his particular friends, and so much addicted to conviviality, that he preferred almost any company to solitude. Every year, it is said, as soon as he had collected his rents upon his estate, and the revenue of his benefices, he came over to England, and spent some months, living in a style of luxury, and rather impairing than improving his fortune.

SIR THOMAS GRESHAM.

THOMAS GRESHAM, whom the founder of Caius College justly styled *Doctissimus Mercator*, "the very learned merchant," was the descendant of an antient family, which, according to Camden, took its name from a town in Norfolk. Thomas Gresham was born in London in 1519, and was bound apprentice to a mercer very young, though he afterwards went to Caius College. He, however, having engaged in trade, was made free of the mercer's company in 1543, and about this time married the daughter of William Fernley, of Suffolk. In consequence of the bad management of the King's mercantile concerns at Antwerp by Sir William Dansell, Mr. Gresham was summoned to the council; and, without any solicitation on his part, appointed agent, upon which he soon removed to Antwerp with his family, where, by his address, he absolutely turned the balance of trade in favour of England; so that the credit of the English crown rose so high, that Mr. Gresham could borrow any sums he thought proper on equitable terms. Edward VI. besides lands to the amount of £300 a year, settled a pension of £100 per annum upon Mr. Gresham and his heirs for ever.

When Elizabeth succeeded to the crown, he was one of the first taken into favour. She employed him to furnish the royal arsenals with arms, and the year following conferred upon him the honour of knighthood, and appointed him her agent in foreign parts; but, being resolved to fix his residence in the city, and to live in a manner suitable to his rank and fortune, he built a large and sumptuous house on the west side of Bishopsgate-street. The merchants of London, still continuing to meet in Lombard-street in the open air, Sir Thomas resolved to revive his father's plan of building them a commodious exchange on the plan of the Bourse at Antwerp: and offered this at his own expense, if the corporation of London would assign over to him a commodious spot of ground sufficient for his purpose, to which, as they consented, the ground plot was laid out immediately; and on the 7th of June 1567, the founder having laid the first stone, the workmen proceeded with such dispatch, that in November the roof was covered in. In 1569, the edifice was completed, and the shops opened.

About this time, the Duke of Alva, by order of Philip II. of Spain, with a view to ruin the English merchants, prohibited all commerce between Flanders and England; but, though they were compelled to remove from Antwerp to Hamburgh, by the measures recommended by Sir Thomas, the credit of England was not only maintained, but raised higher than before. Advising the Queen afterwards to purchase silver for a new coinage of shillings and sixpences, the silver currency became so plentiful, that the greatest part of the royal debts in Flanders were paid with it. Sir Thomas soon after built a magnificent seat at Osterley Park, near Brentford, where he indulged himself with short intervals of relaxation: at the same time, finding constant employment for various descriptions of workmen, having paper, oil, and corn, mills within his park at Osterley. He also introduced into this kingdom the manufacture of pins, knives, hats, ribbands, &c.

His only son Richard dying in 1564, he now resolved to devote the greatest part of his very ample fortune to the benefit of his fellow citizens and their posterity; he accordingly announced his design of having his "mansion house," as it was then called, converted into a college.

After his affairs had been settled, he probably spent the few remaining years of his life in retirement, and expired on the 29th of November 1597, in an apoplectic fit. His remains were deposited in the family vault, at the north-east corner of St. Helen's, his parish church.

DR. HAWKESWORTH.

THIS elegant and ingenious writer was born in the year 1715. His parents are supposed to have moved in humble life. According to Sir J. Hawkins, young Hawkesworth was a hired clerk to an attorney; however, he qualified himself for the profession of a man of letters; and, about 1744, was Dr. Johnson's successor as compiler of the parliamentary debates for the Gentleman's Magazine. He afterwards resided at Bromley, in Kent, where his wife kept a boarding school for young ladies. In 1752, he began to publish a set of periodical papers, under the title of "The Adventurer," which were continued to the one hundred and fourteenth number, and then collected into four volumes in twelves. His coadjutors were Johnson, Warton, Bathurst, Bonnell Thornton, &c. So much did Archbishop Herring approve of the moral and religious tenor of these papers, that he conferred upon their author the degree of doctor of civil law. From some circumstance, this acquisition of dignity lost Dr. Hawkesworth the friendship of Johnson, who had not then obtained a similar honour, and they appear never again to have associated together. That Hawkesworth was weakly elated by his new title, appears from the intention with which it inspired him of assuming the profession of a civilian, and practising in the ecclesiastical courts; but, after some preparatory studies, the opposition he met with obliged him to desist from his design.

In 1756, at the desire of Garrick, he altered for the stage Dryden's comedy of Amphytrion. His oratorio of Zimri was performed at Covent-garden in 1760. Edgar and Emmeline, or a Fairy Tale, was brought out in 1761. In the same year, he published Almoran and Hamet, an oriental tale, in two volumes twelves. He was about this time the editor of a collection of the works of Dean Swift, to which he prefixed a life of that extraordinary person, in which he had been assisted by Dr. Johnson. In 1776, Dr. Hawkesworth was the editor of three volumes of Letters of Dr. Swift, and those of several of his friends, published from the originals, with notes explanatory, &c. A translation of Telemachus in quarto, in 1768, exhibited to great advantage the beauties of Hawkesworth's style. The reputation he had now acquired as a writer obtained for him, in 1772, the lucrative and distinguished task of compiling into one narrative an account of all the voyages of discovery made by command of his present Majesty, to that period of his reign: this work was published in the following year. The profits being resigned to him by government, as a remuneration for his trouble, he sold the copyright for the enormous sum of six thousand pounds. This narrative comprised the materials of the journals kept by Commodore Baron, Captains Wallace and Carteret, and Lieutenant Cook, in their different voyages to the Southern Hemisphere and Pacific Ocean: this work, however, met with some severe censure, on account of inaccuracies, particularly some nautical omissions. His descriptions of the manners of the South Sea islanders were condemned as being too warm, and there were also some religious objections, which more than counterbalanced the satisfaction arising from his profits. The chagrin he underwent, and his indulgence in his mode of living, is supposed to have shortened his days. He died at Bromley, on the 16th November 1773; and his monument there contains some lines written by himself in his last Adventurer.

His Adventurer certainly merited all its success, by the purity of its morals, the elegance of its critical disquisitions, and the acquaintance it displayed with life and manners. The papers of Hawkesworth resemble in style the Ramblers of Johnson; though with somewhat less pomp of diction.